

THE
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FOR MARCH, 1805.

XVI. LETTERS on SILESIA, written during a Tour through that Country in the Years 1800 and 1801, by his Excellency JOHN QUINCY ADAMS; then Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States to the Court of Berlin; and since a Member of the American Senate. In two Parts; Part I. containing a Journal of a Tour through Silesia, in the Year 1800, &c. Part II. a complete geographical, statistical, and historical Account of Silesia, &c. with a Map. 8vo. pp. 387. 8s. boards. Budd.

WHEN we consider the number of literary productions which daily issue from the press, and the velocity with which many of them must inevitably be written, we are the less surprised that censures should oftener appear on the pages of publications whose object is similar to our own, than applause. Haste can never be the means of rendering a work perfect, and glaring imperfection can never raise any book high in the estimation of the learned world. We are led to make these remarks, from reflecting on the circumstances of the times, and rather with an idea of mollifying, than increasing censure; convinced as we are, that few books are entirely without qualifications of one kind or other, to recommend them to the notice of the literary world.

It will readily occur to our readers, that our primary object has generally been rather to lay the contents of the various works which pass under our observation fairly before them, and to give them an opportunity of forming their own opinion of a book, than to take it up and dismiss it with a few hasty remarks, which rather confound than assist in forming a clear judgment of its contents.—We have also, in general, adhered

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to giving an idea of the plan of the work we review, and thus affording our readers an opportunity of ascertaining what they are to expect, rather than finding fault, saying how it ought to be written, and censuring the author's want of what we may deem perfection, a qualification which never will be the lot of mankind.

We have laid it down as a principle in our last number, that books of travels and others of a similar import, ought always, in order to their being held in estimation, to be eminently useful as books of reference, or to possess sufficiency of entertainment to induce the reader to take them up on every occasion. If we judge the letters on Silesia by this rule, we shall rather class the first part under the second of these heads, as it will in general be found entertaining, and possesses little to make it useful as a book of reference; the second, we would rather rank with the first class, as it will principally be found useful for reference, though by no means deficient in entertainment, as the author, both in this and in the first part, almost uniformly keeps up the interest of his narrative.

The principal objects to which the attention of the author, in his tour through Silesia, seems to have been directed, are, the appearance, commerce, and the manufactures of the country, together with the morals and manners of its inhabitants: he never dwells long, and seldom treats scientifically on any subject; hence his book will be found entertaining to the general reader; and we are consequently induced to caution the profound scholar against expecting deep erudition; and rather recommend the work to his attention when he may want a little relaxation from his severer studies: we shall, however, proceed to our analysis.

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The work before us contains forty-three letters, and is divided, as above mentioned, into two parts. The first, containing a journal of a tour through Silesia, performed in the latter part of the year 1800, in which the topography, the agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, and the morals and manners of the people of that province are accurately described: the second, a complete geographical, statistical, and historical account of Silesia; together with a detail of its political constitution, military, civil, and ecclesiastical establishments, seminaries of education, literature, and learned men. We shall in the present instance direct our attention to the first part, leaving the second to a future number, should we be led beyond our limits by our analysis of the first.

As the reader may wish to have a history of the work, and as the advertisement prefixed contains a short account of it, we present it for his information.

"These letters were written from the places and at the times with which they are dated, by the eldest son of the late President of the United States, at that time American Minister at Berlin, to his brother Thomas Boylston Adams, Esq. at Philadelphia. It will be evident, on reading them, that they were not originally intended for public view; but the younger Mr. Adams, at the request of some gentlemen of distinguished taste to whom they were shewn, permitted them to be printed in the *Port Folio*, a miscellaneous paper published in the Transatlantic capital. From that work they are now, for the first time, collected, and are offered to the British public as a faithful picture of the interesting province of Silesia, by the hand of a gentleman, a scholar, and a statesman."

The author, who, as specified in the advertisement, was at that time the American Minister at Berlin, took his departure with some of his friends from that place towards Frankfort on the Oder, with the design of visiting the principal places in Silesia, in the middle of July, 1800. His first letter is dated from Frankfort. We will give the

contents, and afterwards notice such subjects as we judge most interesting, first, however, premising, that we are seldom tempted to find fault with the author, except it be now and then with a too trite remark on the Roman catholic religion; and we merely notice this circumstance from observing him here and there to give way to remarks of this sort. The contents of the first letter are—"Departure from Berlin.—Frankfort on the Oder.—Annual Fairs.—Beet-sugar. Jewish Filthiness.—Univeristy.—The Oder.—Prince Leopold, of Brunswick.—Kleist (a German Poet).—Mineral Waters.—M. Schoening the Landrath (visit to).—Canals.—Count Finkenstein."

Our travellers arrived at Frankfort in time to see "the dregs of one of its annual fairs." The people complained grievously of a prohibition of the sale of foreign manufactures, which had nearly effected the destruction of the fair, as the sale of goods of that description was its principal support.—The author proceeds with an account of the sugar and brandy obtained from the root of the white beet; the discovery and supposed advantages of which made a great noise a few years ago. It was however ascertained, that it would still be convenient to import foreign sugar and brandy, and the project was in consequence nearly annihilated.

This letter is terminated with an interesting account of the circumstances which led to, and the dismissal of, Count Finkenstein, from his presidency over a judicial court, by Frederick the Second, on the occasion of the Miller Arnold's law-suit. The count and some other judges were dismissed by Frederick, in order to shew that the beggar ought to stand on an equal footing with the prince in his courts of justice; a principle undoubtedly of inestimable value: but the author thinks that the king, in this instance, acted himself rather unjustly, as he forsook the positive injunctions of the law, for the purpose of acting on equity.

The second letter is much more entertaining than the first. The subjects which it embraces are—"Crossen.—Grünberg.—Woollen

Manufactures.—M. Förster.—Cultivation of the Vine.—Manners and Drefs.—M. Anders.—Garve.—Discontents at Frankfort.—Freystadt.—Count Kalkreuth.—Complimentary Visit from the Town Officer.—Cheapness of Provisions."

This letter is dated from, and gives an interesting account of Grünberg and its manufactures.—The cultivation of the vine is attended with much hazard, but the soil will produce nothing else.—The author remarks, that he already observed a material difference in the manners of the people. We give his account of his visit to M. Anders.

"I have already observed to you that we perceive the manners of the people here to differ from those to which we have been accustomed at Berlin. It extends only in a slight degree to the drefs of the women, which is remarkable for a sort of fillet or diadem of black velvet, bordered on both sides with gauze or lace, which they wear round the head, and which has a pretty effect. There is likewise a great simplicity in their drefs; and the costume of those who are in circumstances of wealth or competence differs from that of the poorer class only in the fineness of the clothes they wear. Mrs. Förster, the wife of the gentleman I have mentioned to you, was thus dressed, in a short jacket and petticoat, with a white apron, and handed us cakes and wine for refreshment herself, which both she and her husband urged us to take, with great kindness and cordiality. He himself appears to be much of a politician, and reads the newspaper very constantly.—The national feelings, aversion against Austria, and good-will to France, were very perceptible in his conversation, and in that of another gentleman to whom I had brought a letter; but they both spoke with great applause of the Americans, for having persevered in supporting their system of neutrality during the war. Nothing was more true, said Mr. Förster, than the old proverb, *Friede nufert, und krieg verzehrt*—(Peace

blooms, and war consumes). I saw nothing in either of these persons that discovered any tincture of the new philosophy; on the contrary, Mr. Anders, who is a man of information and letters, expressed himself a great admirer of that philosophy which is easily applied to the purposes of life; and with dislike of that which is merely speculative, and finds no end, 'in wandering mazes lost.'—Upon this ground, he declared his preference of *Garve* to *Kant*, as a philosopher. Garve was a German writer, who died about two years ago at Breslau; he is highly celebrated as far as his language extends, though his fame has not yet been blazoned so widely abroad as that of Kant. His writings are chiefly upon topics of morality, which he has promoted by his own works, and by translations both from the Latin and English, from that most admirable monument of ancient genius and wisdom, Cicero's *Treatise de Officiis*, and from the modern but valuable book of Dr. Paley."

A short account of the treatment experienced by the Poles who live under the Persian government closes the first part of this letter.

The third letter contains remarks, &c. on the "Misery of the Peasants.—Sprottau.—Cloth-Manufactory.—Convent and Church of St. Mary Magdalene.—Enmity between Catholics and Protestants.—Potteries.—Extraordinary Ingenuity of Jacob, the Carpenter, and Hüttig, the Weaver."

The Silesian peasantry are compelled, to use the author's phrase, to work ten days in the week; they labour hard five days for their lord, and have the remaining two, one of which is Sunday, allowed to provide for themselves and families. The account of the potteries of Bunzlau is interesting, and the letter is concluded with an account of the two mechanics mentioned in the contents of this chapter.—The first of these, Jacob, has constructed a machine, which successively represents the principal events in the passion of Christ.—Hüttig is a geographer, and his industry and ingenuity are so well

displayed that we are tempted to present our readers with the whole account.

"Hüttig, the weaver, with an equal, or superior mechanical genius, has applied it in a different manner, and devoted it to geographical, astronomical, and historical pursuits. In the intervals of his leisure from the common weaver's work, which affords him subsistence, he has become a very learned man. The walls of his rooms are covered with maps and drawings of his own, representing, here the course of the Oder, with all the towns and villages through which it runs; there the mountains of Switzerland, and those of Silesia, over both of which he has travelled in person. In one room he has two very large tables, one raised above the other; on one of them he has ranged all the towns and remarkable places of Germany, and, on the other, of all Europe; they are placed according to their respective geographical bearings. The names of the towns are written on a small square piece of paper, and fixed in a slit on the top of a peg, which is stuck into the table. The remarkable mountains are shewn by small pyramidal black stones, and little white pyramids are stationed at all the spots which have been distinguished by any great battle or other remarkable incident. The man himself, in explaining his work, shews abundance of learning relative to the ancient names of places and the former inhabitants of the countries to which he points; and amused us with anecdotes of various kinds connected with the lands he has marked out. Thus, in shewing us the Alps, he pointed to the spots over which the French army of reserve so lately passed, and where Bonaparte so fortunately escaped being taken by an Austrian officer; and then he gave us a short comment of his own upon the character and extraordinary good fortune of the First Consul. In a second room he has a large machine, representing the Copernican system of the universe: it is made in such a manner, as that the whole firmament of fixed stars moves round our solar system once

in every twenty-four hours, and thus always exhibits the stars in the exact position, relative to our earth, in which they really stand. Internally, he has stationed all the planets which belong to our system with their several satellites, and all the comets that have been observed during the last three centuries. In a third room he has another machine, exhibiting, in different parts, the various phases of the moon, and those of Jupiter's satellites, the apparent motion of the sun round the earth, and the real motion of the earth round the sun.

"In his garret he has another work, upon which he is yet occupied, and which, being his last labour, seems to be that in which he takes the most delight. Upon a very large table, similar to that in the first room, he has inlaid a number of thin plates of wood, formed so as to represent a projection of the earth upon Mercator's plan. All the intervals between the plates of wood designate that portion of the world which is covered with water. He has used a number of very small ropes of two colours, drawn over the surface in such a manner as to describe the tracks of all the celebrated circumnavigators of the globe. The colours of the ropes distinguish the several voyages from each other. To three of these great adventurers, who he thinks claim especial pre-eminence above the rest, Columbus, Anson, and Cook, he has shewn a special honour by three little models of ships, bearing their names, which are placed upon the surface of his ocean, in some spot of their respective courses. The names of all the other voyagers, and the times at which their voyages were performed, are marked by papers fixed at the points of their departure. Such is the imperfect description I can give you from a short view of the labours of this really curious man. He must be nearly, or quite seventy years old, and has all his life-time been of an infirm constitution. But this taste for the sciences, he told us, was hereditary in his family, and had been common to them all, from his great-grandfather down to him-

self. His dress and appearance were those of a common weaver; but his expressive countenance, at once full of enthusiastic fire and of amiable good-nature, was a model upon which Lavater might expatiate with exultation. The honest and ingenious weaver, on our taking leave, made us smile, by exclaiming, that now, if he could but have a traveller from Africa come to see his works, he could boast of having had visitors from all the four quarters of the globe."

The fourth letter contains—"Orphan-house at Bunzlau.—Opitz, (a Poet).—Lowenberg.—Hirschberg.—Beauty of the Country.—The Opera of Rübenzahl."

Rübenzahl is a kind of mountain spirit, something similar in his nature to those we frequently hear mentioned in England, and, like them, no one has seen him, though the country people are careful not to call him any hard names, lest he should retaliate. The Silesian opera retailed many of his exploits.

The fifth letter contains—"Excursions among the Hills in the Neighbourhood of Hirschberg.—Their romantic Beauties described."

One of the hills in the neighbourhood is named Helicon, by a literary gentleman residing near the place: an abridgment of this letter, which is entertaining throughout, would only injure it; we therefore refer the reader to the original, should he be desirous of further information.

The sixth letter gives an account of the "Linen Manufactories near Hirschberg.—Excursions among the neighbouring Hills.—Warmbrunn."

In this letter the author describes a mountain, named Cavalierberg, situated on the opposite side of the town to Helicon. The description of it is not unentertaining, but it is inferior to that of Helicon. The letter is terminated with a visit to Warmbrunn, and an account of its seal and glass engravers.

An account of "Hermisdorf.—Excursion to the Kynast.—Count Schafgotfch's Castle.—M. Preller's Vitriol-works.—The Kochell-fall," occupy the seventh letter. We shall say nothing more of it than that it is interesting.

The eighth letter contains—"Schreibersbau.—Glass-houses on the Borders of Silesia and Bohemia.—Excursion to the Giant Mountains.—The Zackerle water-fall."

This letter contains nothing peculiarly interesting; we shall therefore pass on to the ninth, the contents of which are—"Visit to the Snow-pits of Riesengebirge, and to the Source and Fall of the Elbe." As this letter, with respect to interest, is about on a par with the last, we shall consequently pass on to the tenth, with saying, that they are not uninteresting, though our limits compel us to proceed with the remainder.

An account of the "Sources of the Elbe and the Oder—Description of the Silesian Mountaineers—Precarious State of the Weather—Seydors—Lutheran Worship—Visit to the Mountains," occupies the tenth letter, which is on the whole interesting. The Silesians and the Bohemians have had some affrays, even to bloodshed, concerning which of their countries has the honour of giving origin to the Elbe. The Silesians, not satisfied with the undoubted possession of the source of the Oder, contended, that the springs giving rise to the Elbe were also on their side of the mountains: and some of the Silesians, like good men and true, deeply interested in the glory of their country, still contend that the Elbe originates on their side; certain it is, however, that the sources of both are within three or four English miles of each other; though one of them empties itself into the North Sea, and the other into the Baltic beyond Stettin.—At Hempel's baude (an inn or hovel on the verge of the Riesenkoppe, or Giant's-head mountain, and where travellers usually pass the night previously to ascending to the top) there is a *Koppen* book, or Album, for the purpose of entering the names, or the sentiments, &c. of the various visitants who chuse to do so: the present Album is a ponderous volume, but there is nothing in it particularly interesting.

The contents of the eleventh letter are—"The Riesenkoppe, or Giant's Head.—Sunrise.—Grand

Prospects.—Description of the Riefenkoppe, the Chapel upon it, and of the surrounding Regions.—Rivalry between the Bohemians and Silesians."

The description of the author's visit to Riefenkoppe is peculiarly interesting; an abridgment of it would only be a mutilation; we therefore refer the reader to the work itself.

The twelfth letter contains an account of "The Lutheran Church at Hirschberg.—M. Reinhardt, the Painter.—Stohnsdorf.—The Stangenbusch and Prudelburgh Hills."

Our travellers staid a few days at Hirschberg to rest themselves after their visit to the Giant's-Head, which circumstance gave the author an opportunity of taking a few short trips into the neighbourhood. These visits were made in company with M. Reinhardt, a painter, who has completed ten landscapes, representing views of the mountains or remarkable scenery in Silesia, for the Academy of Sciences at Berlin; the whole of which have been engraved and coloured at that city.

The thirteenth letter contains an account of the "Sugar Refining at Hirschberg.—Beet-sugar.—Lahnhaus.—Lahn.—St. Hedwige.—Warmbrunn.—Linen bleaching.—Linen-trade.—Silesian Hospitality.—Schmiedeberg." Some attempts on an extensive scale have been made at Hirschberg, to produce the beet-root sugar. One of the directors of the company told the author that it could not be produced under double the price paid for sugar imported from the West Indies. He saw a loaf, which in external appearance exactly resembled the sugar from the cane, but it was neither so dense in texture, nor so sweet to the taste. A quintal of the root only yielded four pounds of sugar.

An account of "Schmiedeberg.—Linen, White Tape, Table-linen.—Creas Manufactories.—Buchwald.—The Friesenstienne," occupies the fourteenth letter.

The principal exported produce of Schmiedeberg goes to Spain; and the word Creas, which is applied to a sort of linen made of yarn, bleached previously to being woven, is Spanish. The merchants are obliged

to cut the articles intended for the Spanish market into small pieces, the Spaniards being too lazy to do it themselves. The estate of Count Ridern, named Buchwald, near Schmiedeberg, is beautiful, and laid out in the English taste.

The subjects of the fifteenth letter are—"Landeshut.—The Convent of Grüfau, its Church and Library." It contains little peculiarly interesting. We, however, present our readers with the following account, as a specimen of the state of a Silesian library.

"The library consists of about twenty-five thousand volumes, which are kept in a light pleasant chamber, and arranged in an excellent methodical order. It contains all the great collections of the fathers, the acts of the saints, councils, &c. The *Acts of the Saints* is a work which I had never seen before; the method observed in this compilation is by giving the acts of each saint under the title of the day devoted to him in the calendar. There are forty-six thick folio volumes, and they have yet reached only to the middle of September. The last volume was published at Antwerp, about the year 1754, and probably the work will never be carried any further. Muratori's great collection of the Italian historians is likewise here; but they have not that of the Byzantine writers. They are likewise entirely destitute of modern books, and, excepting the German, of all books in the modern languages. I saw only two manuscripts; one written by a Russian general during the seven years war; the other a copy of the Koran, upon parchment. The number of monks at this convent is now only thirty. The foundation is very rich, and there are about forty thousand peasants in vassalage under it."

The sixteenth letter contains an account of "A Silesian Dinner.—Lutheran Church at Landeshut.—Ecclesiastical Affairs of Silesia.—Gottesberg.—Stocking Manufactory.—Waldenburg.—Traffic in Linens.—Coal-mines."

The time usually occupied by a Silesian formal dinner is about seven hours, but in compliment to our travellers it was shortened to

three. This letter also contains an account of the wretchedness and the manner of purchasing the linens, of the poor people: the means used by the buyers to obtain the cloth at their own price does not at all redound to their honour.

As we have been sufficiently copious in our account of the first sixteen letters, to enable the reader to enter pretty well into the spirit and manner of the author; and as our circumscribed limits prevent a much further extension of the subject, we shall present the remainder of the tables of contents, and a few short extracts, where we deem the subject interesting.

"Letter XVII.—Altwasser.—Fürstenstein.—Count Hochberg.—Friedland.—Adersbach.—Extraordinary Scenery.

"Letter XVIII.—Description of a Caroual and Masquerade given at Fürstenstein, on the Arrival of the King and Queen of Prussia.

"Letter XIX.—Fürstenstein.—Freyburg.—Peculiarities of the Silesian Mountains and Mountain-towns, and their Inhabitants.—Lime-pits near Freyburg.—Schweidnitz.—Its Defects as a Fortrefs.—Its Convents.—Its Privilege of Exemption from Jews.—Its Churches."

As we think the author's conjecture respecting the origin of the *Goutte* to be full as rational as any we have seen, we present the reader with the account; perhaps, however, it may rather originate from changeable weather, and hard living.

"The accommodations for travellers upon the mountains themselves are very miserable; but, in the towns, the inns are rather above the average of public-houses in Germany. Almost every where we found good bread, butter, coffee, milk, and water. The water, indeed, which trickles down the sides of the mountains in ten thousand streams, which you cross at almost every tenth step you take, is so clear and cool, that some self-control is necessary to avoid drinking it, while you are sweating under the toil of the ascent. The mountaineers, however, take no precautions of this kind, but freely drink from the brooks at the very moment when they are in the

profusest perspiration. If I were a physician I should, perhaps, inquire whether the *gouttes*, of which we have heard so much upon the mountains of Switzerland, and which are by no means uncommon upon these, are not partly imputable to this carelessness."

"Letter XX.—Reichenbach.—Its new Church.—Frankenstein.—Wartha.—Its Cloister and Church.—Glatz.

"Letter XXI.—Landeck.—Its Baths and mineral Waters.—Beauty of its Environs.—The River Biele.—Waterfall at Wölfsgründe.—Ruins of the Town of Habelschwerd.

"Letter XXII.—Excursion to the Heuscheuer, among the Mountains.—Wünschelburg.—The Hour-bell.

"Letter XXIII.—The Heuscheuer.—Leyersdorf.—Carlberg. Views from the Top of the Heuscheuer.—The Church at Almen-dorf.—Eckersdorf.—Count Magné.

"Letter XXIV.—General de Favrat.—Glatz.—Its Fortrefs, &c. Wartha.—Frankenstein.—Silberberg.—Its Fortrefs, &c.—Jordan's Mühle.—Zobten.—The Zobtenberg.—Breslau.

"Letter XXV.—Breslau.—Its Inhabitants.—Religion.—Cathedral.—Bishop's Palace.—Churches.—Libraries.—Curious Manuscripts.—Paintings, &c.

"Letter XXVI.—Breslau.—Churches, Halls, and Colleges of the Jesuits.—Public Schools.—Scheidnich, the Seat of Prince Hohenlohe.—Trade of Breslau.—Manufactories of Sugar, Turkish Yarn, and sewing Needles.—Cannon-foundry.

"Letter XXVII.—Leuthen.—Neumarcht.—Liegnitz.—Family of the Piasts.—Military School.—Broad-cloth Manufactory.—Goldberg.—Its Woollen Manufactories.—The Capallenberg.

"Letter XXVIII.—Flinzburg.—Its Baths.—Mäfferdorf.—The Tafelsichte.—Baron Gersdorf.—Greiffenberg.—Its Linens.—Lauban.—Linens and Cloths of Lusatia.—Görlitz.—Zittau.—Moravian Settlement of Herrnhuth.—The Landeskron.—Bawzen.—Bischoffwerda.—Dresden.

"Letter XXIX.—Dresden.—The Elector's Collection of Prints.

—Mr. E.—Lord H.—Meissen.—Porcelain Manufactory.—Wermisdorf.—Castle of Hubertsburg.—Leipzig.”

We cannot resist the temptation to give the account of the collection of prints at Dresden.

“The collection of prints I think it questionable whether you saw; and after spending two forenoons in viewing it, we had only to regret that we could not devote every morning to it for as many weeks. It contains all the best engravings extant, from the pictures of all the famous painters of the various schools. We could only attend to the objects of the highest curiosity, such as a series of engravings, arranged chronologically, and exhibiting a history of the progress of the art from its rudest beginnings to its highest state of perfection. Three volumes of the works of Nanteuil, the most celebrated engraver of the age of Louis XIV. (they are all portraits of the most distinguished characters of France during that period, and many of them executed in a style which left very little room for improvement in later times); a collection, in ten numbers, of portraits done by Holbein, and engraved by Bartolozzi; a volume of sketches, designed by the admirable Italian painter Guercino, likewise of Bartolozzi's engraving; and a volume by a German engraver, named Baufe, scarcely inferior, if at all, to Bartolozzi, or any other of the English engravers: these, with two volumes of prints from the pictures in the Dresden gallery, an incomplete and indifferently executed collection, were all we had time to examine. Of this collection they kept single prints for sale. I took three of them; the Night, and St. George, of Correggio, and the Sacrifice of Abraham, of Andrea del Sarto, which, I hope, will one day give some idea to our friends in America of what these high-famed paintings are. The scantiness of my finances would not allow me to make a larger purchase, though I would have added the Magdalene of Correggio, had not the print been so very bad as to be rather a libel upon the picture than a copy of it.”

XVII. *The Life and Character of BONAPARTE, from his Birth to the 15th of August, 1804.* By W. BURDON, A. M. 8vo pp. 293. 4s. 6d. Ostell.

It will perhaps not have escaped the recollection of our readers, that we laid it down as a principle in the introduction to the review of the *Life and Correspondence of Wilkes*, that a proper estimate of each other's abilities is rarely formed by contemporary characters, particularly political ones; as passion or prejudice generally prevents the calm conclusions of sound reason: time alone can sufficiently disperse the mist and confusion arising from these sources, which so completely obscure and prevent the due exercise of our reasoning faculties, when employed on subjects of this nature. We are led to make these remarks, from a perusal of the work before us: the author professes to be impartial, and we give him as much credit for the assertion as can possibly be allowed to a contemporary biographer: nay, we give him more, for we scarcely judged it possible for an author, under the above circumstances, to divest himself of prejudice so far as appears to be the case with the writer of the *life* under consideration. The perusal of this work has also led us into a train of reflections on the nature of biographical writing in general, a species of literary composition, which, if only tolerably executed, is generally acceptable to readers of almost every description.

When we consider the state of society at present prevalent in Europe, the which so naturally inclines us to be civil to each other, as to cause the voice of truth to be grating to our ears, we can hardly expect that any writer of biography will so far attempt to do violence to the delicate ears of his readers, as to utter any thing which may tend to the disparagement of the hero of his piece. This circumstance seems to have operated powerfully on our most esteemed biographical writers; and we are generally so far seduced by the smooth vain of their productions, and our feelings are in general so accustomed to that kind of mild-

ness, that the perusal of a work like this, where the vices or failings of the character under consideration are held up in a proper point of view, causes us to experience a sensation of an ungrateful kind, though we perhaps may not at the first moment be able to say from whence it originates. If this be admitted to be true; if the writers of the lives of eminent men must, in order to please their readers, rather direct their attention to the bright side of the character, and keep the dark one in the back ground, than hold both sides impartially to view, we shall be better able, upon this principle, to appreciate the degree of estimation in which the work before us will most probably be held. By those who think in the manner above stated, "The Life and Character of Bonaparte" will not be altogether relished; by those who think that truth alone is estimable, and that a character ought to be displayed as it really exists, it will be perused with approbation, as, in our opinion, the author has touched the vices and the virtues of the First Consul with an equal hand, and, as we said above, with greater impartiality than we had judged it possible for a contemporary writer to attain. It perhaps may be urged against us, that we are labouring under a similar difficulty with the biographer, and that we cannot in consequence give a fair judgment of a work of this kind: if so, we can only refer the matter to the reader of the next century, and add, that in general the rules on which we form our judgment of a work are founded as much as possible on the nature of things; and if we possess sufficient ability to discover where truth is to be found, we have no doubt but our opinion will be owned to be legitimate by her, long after the prejudices of the present day shall have sunk into oblivion.

As it is absolutely necessary that the principal events of the life of every character be detailed by his biographer, and as, if the writer lays the least claim to impartiality, he must necessarily take them as he finds them, the reviewer has nothing to do with the object of the

memoirs; he has merely to review the manner, and the matter, not the subject of the work he professes to consider. We have observed this circumstance to mislead a few of our "Brothers of the trade," in their accounts of works of this sort; for should the author not be peculiarly censurable, there may be ample means for abusing the hero of the piece; and as under these circumstances they are probably determined to find fault, they contrive to do it one way or other: we shall therefore rather direct our attention to the author than to the object of his labours, and give our opinion on his production, rather than on the life of the Emperor of the French.

The work is not divided into chapters; and as the author follows the principal events in the life of Bonaparte, there is not much need of such divisions, though we prefer them, as contributing to order, and to facility of reference. The narrative is in general well kept up, and it is not deficient in spirit; but being mostly of a grave cast, it is not immediately perceived; the language is moderately good, but the periods, in our opinion, are too long; which circumstance necessarily induces the crowding of too many and different incidents under one head: and though it is a fault into which some authors of the present day fall, that their meaning is not always apparent at the first glance, and that the reader has, in consequence, to re-peruse a passage, in order to ascertain its precise sense, yet we would not be understood, in making this remark, to imply any thing of this kind, when we say that, though the author of this work often crowds many and different incidents into one paragraph, and is not always lucid in his style, yet he is in all places readily intelligible: we have no need of re-perusal to ascertain his meaning.

The principal error into which an author, writing the life of such a character as Bonaparte, in the present age, would be liable to fall, would rather be an offence against religion, than against the necessary consequences of it. The author, however, has taken proper

care to guard both: he has delineated the vices and irreligion of Bonaparte, and of every person he has had occasion to mention; of whom, the horrible events of the French revolution lead us to expect many, in their proper colours. He has interperfed the work with reflections, which often give him an opportunity of delivering his own thoughts on the subjects connected with the principal events of the life of the First Consul. Indeed the latter part of the book is entirely occupied with an appreciation of his character, and a development of his views with respect to the political state of Europe, and which the author has done, in our opinion, in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. Burdon rather looks at great events than at details; and sketches the outline of a battle rather than completes the picture. We will give his ideas in his own words; and the paragraph will also be a fair specimen of his manner.

"In estimating the military character of Bonaparte, it is my intention to be brief; I abhor, and therefore I have taken no pains to understand military affairs; for I must ever consider the glory obtained by the destruction of the species, an object rather of aversion than of exultation and triumph; and whenever necessity compels us to lift our arm against our fellow-creatures, nothing but self-preservation can justify the deed, and nothing but the sense of being preserved should make us review our conduct with any degree of complacency. I will therefore forbear to enter into the detail of Bonaparte's tactics, which were said to have been invented by Carnot, and first executed by Pichegru; it will be sufficient to enumerate those qualities which have rendered him superior to all other military commanders, and briefly to relate the leading events of his victorious progress to the imperial throne. The rapidity of his movements, and the celerity with which he prevents the designs of his enemies, seem to give him a power almost miraculous, and an advantage over other men which they can hardly compre-

hend. He beats them in one place when they think him in another, and follows up his victories so rapidly, that their number exceeds all credibility. The successive defeats of Beaulieu, Wurms, the Archduke, Alvinzi, and Melas, testify his merits, and place him above all comparison. The glories of Millefino, Lodi, Arcola, Rivola, Treviso, Tagliamento, Chebrieffe, the Pyramids, Aboukir, and Marengo, obscure the lustre of all other generals, and leave him unrivalled in murderous celebrity. To obtain all these victories, certainly required a union of the rarest talents, and these are to be found in Bonaparte. His acuteness, penetration, coolness, vigour, and presence of mind; his boldness in design, and intrepidity in execution; his firmness, activity, and perseverance, are qualities not to be found united in any other man. Yet something must also be imputed to the enthusiasm of the troops which he commanded—to that ardor in defence of liberty, which is now replaced by the lust of plunder."

As the principal events of the ambitious, yet splendid career of Bonaparte, are fresh in the memories of our readers, we shall depart from our usual method of analysis. The general character of the work has been given above: and as to the particular parts, were we to deliver our opinion of their comparative merits, we should prefer the account of the battles, and the events connected with them, before Mantua; of his return to Paris, and his introduction to the Directory; that of his Egyptian expedition, of his return to France, and the events connected with raising him to the office of First Consul, are more particularly interesting. The account of the battle of Marengo, and of the events which took place both before and after it, though not minutely detailed, are peculiarly spirited.

We shall close our account of the work with repeating, that the reflections on the character and designs of Bonaparte, which occupy about fifty of the last pages, are admirable, and ought to be read with candour and attention, both

by those who are dazzled and by those who are not dazzled with the brilliance of his career. The perpetual will cool the one and warm the other; it will animate the latter to oppose vigorous opposition to the measures of Bonaparte; and open the eyes of the first, unless absolutely blinded by prejudice, to the real danger with which all Europe is at present threatened, by this daring and powerful slave to ambition.

We shall now present our readers with a few extracts, and take leave of the subject, with recommending a calm and candid perusal of the work, to the reader, who may be more anxious to form a proper estimate of the character and abilities of the Emperor of the French, than to seek food for the gratification of prejudice.

The following extracts will go a little way towards making the reader a little more intimate with the character of Bonaparte: he was on his way to France when they occurred.

"The government of Berne had sent a deputy to him at Milan, who accompanied him on his journey, and had a son with him, a boy about thirteen years old, and of very quick parts, much above his age. Bonaparte seemed always very fond of talking to him. He found him one day with a map of Switzerland. 'What are you looking at there?' said the general:—

'Some parts of my own country which I am not acquainted with,' replied the youth. 'Do you know that part?' said Bonaparte, pointing to Porentrui. 'That does not belong to us,' replied the youth. 'We mean to give it you,' returned the general. 'And what do you mean to ask in exchange?' said the boy. 'Nothing,' said Bonaparte, 'we will make you a present of it.' 'Nothing!' returned the youth thoughtfully.—

'Ah! *Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.*' Bonaparte immediately threw his arms about him in a rapture, and said to his father, 'Take care of this boy's education; he will be no common man some day or other.'

"When he came near to the little village of Faubroun, which

is surrounded with thick fir-trees, he got out of his carriage and walked to the inn, humming the tune of 'Paisible bois.' He talked very freely with the landlord, and asked him if he paid many taxes? 'No,' said the man, 'we hardly know what they are.' 'Have you no land of your own?' 'Yes, about fifty pounds a year.' 'Do you pay no taxes for that?' 'Yes, the tithes and quit rent, which are no more than the annual wages of one of my husbandmen; I reckoned that in the expence of working my land, and I paid for it accordingly.' 'Does your government levy no tax upon the land?' 'None.' 'How then does it pay its expences?' 'With the produce of its domains, which is not only sufficient for the purpose, but leaves a balance every year.'— 'You are very well satisfied with your government then I suppose?' 'And so I ought to be,' replied the landlord, 'with a government which does great good to the poor, and no harm to the rich.' 'If all this is true,' said Bonaparte, turning to one of his officers, 'these are the happiest people in the world.' 'Aye,' said the innkeeper, 'and I wish all people were equally so.' And yet this is the people whose happiness he has thought proper to destroy."

The following extract is from the beginning of the reflections referred to above; it will be a fair specimen of the author's manner and style in that respect.

"The restoration of monarchy in France will, it is to be hoped, be the commencement of a happy æra to Great Britain and to Europe; for after the experience they have had of a republic and an empire, they ought to hail the return of a constitutional monarchy; and though the despotic governments on the continent were averse to its establishment, and by their opposition drove the French to a republic, yet they are probably now convinced that such a government is not so inconsistent with their safety as the revolutionary empire of Bonaparte; and though France, when a republic, reviled Great Britain for her want of liberty, and when an empire for her having too much,

yet it is probable that all parties will now be reconciled to a constitutional monarchy as the only possible resource for general security and regulated liberty. The animosity which subsists between this country and France, though violent, is not so deeply rooted as it was under the old government; it is now merely kept alive by the ambition of one individual, for the people of both countries are weary of war; but with that individual we can never make peace with any safety or confidence; his secret machinations are more to be dreaded than his open hostility, and the dangers of peace with him are incalculably greater than those of war; for of the many chances which the latter involves, some must be fatal to his government and his life, and peace must be fatal to us because we never can form any barrier against his treachery. The faith of treaties is nothing with him—we have no means to bind him to conditions—he can give us no pledges for our security which we ought to accept; and therefore, a state of war with such a man, though a horrid and barbarous state, is preferable to a state of disguised hostility; and when the happiness not only of a nation but of Europe depends on the successful termination of the contest, a vigorous perseverance in such a war is justifiable by the strictest laws of moral calculation; while a compromise with the great enemy of his species can result only from the utmost blindness of intellect or baseness of principle, and will not fail to bring down a punishment most justly merited. The restoration of monarchy in France, I repeat it again, should be openly and explicitly avowed, as affording the only means of security. It was one fault among many others of the late war, that we were contending for no specific object—our ministers rested in mere general declarations; but that was in some measure excusable, when there remained a probability of a solid republican government being established; that being now at an end, all vague and indefinite language should therefore be abandoned, and one legitimate object plainly avowed, we should declare our in-

tention, not merely to pull down Bonaparte, but to raise up another power in his room; and if this may be said to interfere with the right of France to choose her own government, it may be answered, that nations as well as individuals are bound to respect the security of others, and if they will not do it of themselves they should be compelled: for this purpose then we must strain every nerve and every sinew of our strength, till Providence deliver us from our determined foe; the truth must be told, every exertion must be used, and every sacrifice endured, rather than surrender our liberty, our comfort, and our commerce, to his diabolical artifice, or open hostility; and if we persevere without wavering in our purpose, we must ultimately be successful; for the resistance which we oppose to him is that of a moral as well as a physical force. We are strong not only in our resources but in the justice of our cause, in our patriotism, and in the consciousness of supporting social order against arbitrary and lawless violence; and though success is not always the test of merit, yet, if reason is the test of truth, it cannot be doubted, even though we should not, that we ought to succeed. Let us then neither slacken our endeavours nor our spirit—let us cheerfully bear our burthens, however great for the time—let us contend with one heart, one might, and one purse; and then, if there is justice in heaven or on earth, the mighty idol of the nations will fall even before our single force, should we stand alone in the contest, and we shall thus present a spectacle to the world worthy the admiration of the present age, and the gratitude of posterity."

The following extract will give an idea of the First Consul's treatment of Count Markoff.

"The Russian ambassador, Count Markoff, is a man of elegant manners, and great knowledge of the world; and it appears he was extremely disgusted with Bonaparte's insolence to Lord Whitworth, when he publicly affronted him in the midst of the diplomatic circle, and he was the only one of the whole number who dared to shew

his displeasure at the Consul's rudeness: he smiled at him with infinite contempt, and immediately went up to his lordship, and said some civil things to him on the disagreeable situation in which Bonaparte's indecent warmth had placed him. From that time he seemed to have excited the tyrant's utmost hatred. He was never after invited to any of the diplomatic dinners, and was seldom spoken to at the levees. In addition to this, he is reported to have given his opinion pretty strongly when the mediation of Russia, between England and France, was agitated, that there could be no solid peace unless the Sardinian monarch was reinstated in his dominions, and the independence of Holland, Switzerland, and Italy respected by France. Being soon after completely disgusted with the conduct of Talleyrand, with Bonaparte, and the whole train of his sycophants, he determined to solicit his recall, and, till he received his answer, went to drink the waters of Baresges, where he was constantly beset with the spies of the First Consul. On his return from thence, at his first conference with Talleyrand, that profligate and crafty agent of despotism, more than insinuated that the offer of mediation tendered by the court of Russia was purchased by England; to which he replied with great warmth and dignity, that he should immediately dispatch a messenger to his sovereign to inform him how he had been insulted. A few days after he was sent for by Bonaparte, who attacked him with all the violence of an angry female, and in language resembling the fishmarket of Billingsgate or Paris, abused both the emperor and his ambassador, and finished his harangue by threatening to send the latter to the Temple. From that time M. Markoff never again appeared either at the Tuilleries or St. Cloud, till the time of his departure, when he complied with the ceremony of taking leave of the court."

WILLIAM PATTERSON, M.D.
[Concluded.]

HAVING already presented our readers with our opinion of the preliminary considerations prefixed to this work, we shall resume our account of the remainder, premising, however, that every part of it abounds with interesting matter; but where, from the nature of his subject, the author must necessarily be dull, (we refer to the meteorological remarks) he supplies the want of liveliness by solidity of information. In taking such an extensive survey of the subject, as Dr. P. commonly does, it will frequently happen that speculative notions must assist in the completion of the picture; the author, however, though ardent, is seldom injudicious, his conjectures bear the mark of a mind accustomed to contemplate nature as she is; and he seldom proceeds far without calling in the assistance of facts.

The ground which the author treads is not altogether new; but the subjects on which he writes are not, in our opinion, in that estimation which their utility deserves. He attempts the development of meteorological facts with boldness and judgment; and executes his undertaking with a spirit, ingenuity, and industry rarely equalled by the authors of the present day. He evidently writes with a view to the advancement of science. Meteorology and rural economy are his two principal objects; but as art must ever attend on science, in order that mankind may be benefited by the exertions of the philosopher, the author never forgets that the one should follow close in the train of the other; he recollects that the joint labours of the philosopher and the artist ought always to proceed hand in hand. The object of his work is to rouse his countrymen to a due appreciation of the value of agricultural knowledge, the only permanent source of wealth and prosperity to any country.

The preliminary considerations, of which we gave an account in our last number but one, are, generally speaking, original, though

not altogether so; we will give the author's account of the remainder in his own words: it is extracted from the sixth section of the preliminary considerations "On the utility of the co-operation of Art and Science, in every work wherein their joint labours are required," and is a fair specimen of Dr. P.'s style and manner.

"The author of these pages has studiously endeavoured to bring those two powerful allies, art and science, into general co-operation in the undertaking; at the same time he candidly acknowledges that the practical parts of the subsequent observations on planting, he cannot recommend from the results of his own experience; but he can with truth affirm, that he has carefully drawn them from the best authorities, and, he trusts, that they will be found to bear internal evidence of the authenticity of their sources. Tasks of this kind are attended with more trouble than credit; yet the gratification felt in making *selections* is not small, and affords some requital for the time and pains taken in the composition. Thus to have detached from a mass of mingled materials those that are useful, and to have moulded them into a suitable form, are exercises of the intellect on which it reflects with pleasure, and in that pleasure lies the primary reward. Other returns also may be derived from the justice and candour of readers, who are not insensible to the equity of claims founded on a basis of this nature."

The remaining part of the work is divided into five chapters, the general objects of which may be classed under two heads, the first, including the first three chapters, treats on the meteorology; the second contains the remaining two, and an address to the inhabitants and friends of Ireland, and relates chiefly to planting and the cultivation of flax. But we shall give an account of the contents of them in the order they occur.

The plan of the first and second chapters is exactly similar; they contain, "Observations on the Weather, in the years 1801 and 1802;" each year having a separate chapter. They are divided into three sections each: the first,

containing three tables; "Table I. Summary Refult of Meteoric Instruments." The heads are, months, maximum and minimum heights of the barometer, thermometer, and De Luc's hygrometer; and the height of the rain gauge in inches. "Table II. Numerical Directions of the Winds for each Month." The object of this table is to ascertain the general direction of the wind, and has a column appropriated to each of the eight principal points of the compass, containing the number of days occupied by each wind.—"Table III. Synoptical View of common Phenomena." This table gives the number of days in each month which were fair, showery, wet, hail, snow, frost, aurora borealis, thunder and lightning.—Each of these tables has a total number of each subject joined to it. The second section contains remarks on the general state and temperature of the weather throughout the year; each arranged under the name of its proper month. The third contains "Agricultural Notices," and includes notices on the effect of the weather on vegetation, and the produce of crops; with remarks on the diseases of plants.

The second chapter, as we before mentioned, is exactly similar in design and execution to the first, except, that the mention of a storm in the month of January gives rise to a fourth section, containing "Cursory Remarks on the Origin and Nature of Winds." This disquisition contains some pertinent reflections on winds; but they are generally only new as to arrangement. The Dr. wishes to excite inquiry wherever he has an opportunity.

The third chapter is without a title, but the heads of the sections, of which there are six, will lead us into the subject. The first is, "On the Climate of Ireland;" the second is, "On the Constitution of the Atlantic Ocean;" the third, "On the Tides affecting the Coasts of Ireland;" the fourth, "On the Growth of Timber Trees in Ireland;" the fifth, "On the Growth of Fruit Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers in Ireland;" and the sixth, "On the Climate of Scot-

land, Norway, Sweden, Russia, and Switzerland; and on the Growth of Trees in those Countries."

The reader will perceive that the author is able to extend his ideas, so as to take in an extensive survey of his subject: his neat and lively manner of treating it, and his industry in collecting information, make the work peculiarly valuable and interesting.

The principal object of the author, throughout the whole of this chapter, is to disprove an assertion mentioned in our review of the preliminary considerations, viz. "that human industry cannot now rear a twig of the hardiest tree in those parts of the country where timber formerly flourished," and that the climate of Ireland is deteriorated within the memory of the present generation. We will give a brief sketch of the object of each section separately, in order to enable our readers to judge of the Dr.'s method of disproving both assertions.

The title of the first is "On the Climate of Ireland;" and the author principally employs it in collecting and detailing facts relative to the state of the climate from the remotest periods to the present time. Diodorus Siculus, Strabo, Cæsar, Orosius, Buchanan, Giraldus Cambrensis, Bede, and Peter Lombard, each contribute their quota to assist in determining the question so far as the climate is concerned. The meteorologist will find the perusal of it worth his attention, as it gives a number of barometrical, thermometrical, and other observations relative to the weather, which will always be useful. The second section is "On the Constitution of the Atlantic Ocean." The inquirer into the operations of nature will be pleased with the remarks contained here, it being a valuable qualification in the author, that he collects an extensive body of facts, and condenses them into a small compass. He traces the grand currents of the ocean, more particularly of the Atlantic, with great boldness; and shews their effect on the coast and the climate of Ireland, with much ingenuity. Some conjecture must necessarily be called into the

account, but the author seldom proceeds far without the assistance of facts.

The third section is, "On the Tides affecting the Coasts of Ireland;" and is principally employed in the refutation of Dr. Hamilton's opinion, that the climate of Ireland is deteriorated. It contains many just remarks, and perhaps, by altering Dr. H.'s words a little, the author has hit on the true foundation of the change for the worse complained of. Dr. P. states it to be an alteration in the bodily sensations of the people, the complaint originating principally, and for obvious reasons, amongst the older people. We have heard aged people assert the same, with respect to the climate of England; but we always attributed it to the same cause with Dr. Patterfon.—His opinion confirms us more fully in our own.

The fourth section is "On the Growth of Timber Trees in Ireland." Dr. P. opens this section as follows:

"Dr. Hamilton informs us, page 30, that he found and examined vast roots and noble trunks of the species of pine-tree denominated Scotch fir, 'in situations where human industry cannot now rear a twig of the hardiest tree.' And he asserts, that the *ash* flourished, in every district in Ireland, about fifty years ago, but that it is now, in many parts of the country, a victim to the scourging effects of the vehement gales, which have since borne upon this island, chiefly from the western quarters.

"Secured, he observes, by its deciduous nature from wintry blasts, the *ash* is, nevertheless, extremely sensible to the efforts of our summer storms, and becomes a faithful register of the winds of our climate, marking their most prevalent direction by the inclination of its boughs, and their violence by the degree wherein its tender shoots, or more mature branches, are withered or blasted."

"Half a century," continues he, "has scarcely elapsed, since this useful species of tree was generally planted, and grew luxuriantly in every part of Ireland; yet are there hardly any exposed places in the kingdom where its top branches de-

not now, (1794,) in one part or another, exhibit the withered vestiges of commencing decay.—Through many parts of Ulster it is a blasted tree; and in all unsheltered situations, in the three northern counties of Antrim, Derry, and Donegal, the species seems fast verging towards annihilation."

The whole of this section is employed in adducing facts, from many parts of Ireland, in confutation of Dr. H.'s statement. He presents us with an account of the plantations, and measurement of trees from many of the principal situations in that country, and concludes as follows:

"And, upon the whole, we may now fairly conclude, in opposition to the assertion of Dr. Hamilton, that in many exposed places in Ireland, the top branches of the ash tree do not, for the most part, exhibit the withered vestiges of commencing decay."

The fifth section is, "On the Growth of Fruit-Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers, in Ireland."

"As proof that the climate of this country is changed, it is alleged, that trees, which formerly produced plenty of rich mellow fruit, now yield but a crude insipid scanty crop. Cambrensis saw but few apple trees in Ireland; a paucity, he says, not owing to the unkindness of the soil, but to the indolence of the people; for those brought from abroad flourished very much. Notwithstanding this concession, a decided admirer of Cambrensis attempts to account for the rarity of apple-trees here at that period, by remarking, 'that a cold savage country, with swamps and forests, has but few indigenous fruits.'"

The author attempts to disprove this idea, and, as usual, adduces many important facts in opposition to it. He lets nothing escape his observation; and his ideas on the naturalization of vegetables, copiously displayed in this section, are valuable, and are highly deserving of the attention of every person desirous of information with respect to rural economy.

The last section is "On the Climate of Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, and Switzerland; and on the growth of Trees in those

Countries." The author, with his usual ardor and intelligence, proceeds to demonstrate the probability of the thriving of trees in Ireland, from a comparison with the climates of nations enumerated above. His reasoning is good, and we agree with him, that a judicious choice of situation, soil, and of trees adapted to each, along with taking proper care of the plantations, will not only ensure the flourishing of wood in Ireland, but in every other country.

We now come to the last part of our subject, which chiefly relates to the raising of timber, and the cultivation of flax; in which the doctor, with his usual ability and industry, collects, arranges, and details a mass of information relating to both these subjects: he, perhaps, does not so often present us with new matter as with a judicious selection and condensation of such as is already known, and which was necessarily scattered in many publications. Yet the whole is interwoven with original reflections so as to make the work not only interesting, but, in our opinion, extensively useful; indeed, we are often led to think that the advancement of science would be much accelerated, would the authors who write on any department similar to the present, examine, compare, and collect the opinions of those who have bestowed their attention on the same subject.

The author commences this part of his work with "An Address to the Inhabitants and Friends of Ireland;" the intention of which is to rouse his countrymen to a proper sense of their duty and interest. He forcibly depicts the necessity for, and the advantages of planting when properly conducted. His arguments are principally directed to landholders; but he does not forget the occupiers, whose exertions are, in a certain degree, as necessary as those of their landlords. He would have every person, who feels himself in the least interested in the prosperity of his country, to turn his attention to this absolutely necessary branch of rural economy; more particularly as trees can be raised, with proper management, in situations which will

yield few other productions. Our limits will not admit of a particular account of this address, but the above are its leading objects. The Dr. makes his proposals, and combats absurd popular opinions with his accustomed perspicuity.

The fourth chapter, which immediately follows the above address, is "On Planting." The author gives an account of this part of the work in the first extract in our present review. The matter is not generally new, but he arranges it, and applies it to his own country. This chapter is divided into six sections; the first is on the "Contrariety of Opinions relative to the Modes of Planting;" the second, on "Fences and Shelter;" the third, on "Soil, Situation, Seminary, and Nursery;" the fourth, on the "Methods of Planting;" the fifth, on "Pruning, Thinning, and Felling;" the sixth, on "Fossil Timber." The principal trees to which the author directs his attention are, 1, the Oak, (*Quercus Robur*). 2, the Ash, (*Fraxinus excelsior*). 3, Elm, (*Ulmus campestris*). 4, Fir, (*Pinus Rulra*, [the *P. Sylvestris* of *Withering* and others.] 5, Larch, (*Pinus Larix*). 6, The Beech, (*Fagus Sylvatica*). And 7, the Sycamore, (*Acer Pseudo-platanus*). We regret that our limits will not permit us to do more than recommend the whole chapter to the attention of our readers, particularly to those who have not paid much attention to, but are desirous of acquiring information on the subject of planting.

The fifth and last chapter is "On the Structure, Utility, and Disease of the Flax Plant." The author has not, as in the others, divided this chapter into sections. Such a division might perhaps be judged superfluous. We shall, however, present the reader with a rapid sketch of its contents. Dr. P. begins his account of the flax plant with a technical description, which is followed by an account of its construction, with a view to its being formed into linen; and then proceeds with its utility and value to the people of Ireland.—The flax seed is usually imported from America, Holland, and Riga, and commonly costs the Irish from

25 to 35 thousand guineas annually. It is subject to some uncertainty with respect to the supply; so that it bears immensely different prices at different times; and the burthen, in times of scarcity, generally falls on the poor. These circumstances lead the Dr. into an inquiry, whether it would not be better to set every engine to work, to raise the seed in Ireland; and to ascertain whether home-raised seed would not be equally good with that imported from abroad; and he comes to the deduction, that a judicious change of seed, similar to what is practised with respect to corn, would be all that is necessary to produce seed every way as good as that got by importation. The author next rapidly details the processes for fitting flax for the weaver and the bleacher; on the latter of which he bestows some attention, principally, however, referring to the philosophy of bleaching. The remaining part of the chapter is occupied with a description of, and an inquiry into the nature of, the disease in the flax termed *firing on the foot*, where he takes much pains in endeavouring to ascertain the cause. He seems ultimately to think that it may be a kind of combustion, but his theory seems to us to be no way conclusive; indeed, he rather offers his opinion as a conjecture than a reality. We are inclined to think that the disease is owing to a plant of a similar nature with the one occasioning the mildew in wheat; and we hazard a conjecture, though we have not examined the diseased flax with much attention, that our idea of the disease will readily explain the principal phenomena without difficulty.

The whole chapter is well worth the serious attention of the agriculturist, as it may suggest some new ideas on the treatment of this useful plant: and it contains much more originality than the one preceding it. We now close our account of this interesting work. We have rarely met with a treatise written with so much ingenuity and liveliness. The student in rural economy will do well to consult it as an initiatory book; the author

condensing much valuable information into a small compass, and consequently the perusal of it will lead him into an extensive survey of the subject, without the labour of wading through numerous books for that which may possibly be little to his purpose.

XIX. ANNALS OF BOTANY.—
Vol. I. Part III. [Concluded.]

AS we presume that the Annals of Botany must have in some measure become familiar to our readers, we shall proceed, without further preface, to our account and analysis of the third and last part of the first volume.

The first paper, the twenty-sixth from the beginning, contains "Botanical Observations, by the late Don Antonio Joseph Cavanilles; translated from the Spanish."—(*Anales de Ciencias naturales*, tomo iv. p. 245.) The first of these observations is "On the Fructification of Ferns and Mosses." Botanists had usually supposed a fine dust, found in the capsules of ferns and mosses, to be their seed. The author of this essay, however, discovered, by means of a good magnifier, some lenticular opaque bodies in the capsules, which he judged were real seeds; and conjectures that the dust with which they are covered are the anthers. The translator tried to discover these lenticular bodies, but was unsuccessful; he, however, modestly leaves the matter for discussion; and supposes, that as Cavanilles has not specified the mosses and ferns which he examined, they possibly might not use the same plants in the experiment.

The next observations are "On the true Stigma of the Iris." The author thought that the true stigma of the Irides had not been ascertained; and therefore proposes his ideas as to the real ones. The translator, however, gives, in a note, some observations on the fructification of plants, from Kölreuter and Sprengel, which, in a great measure, supersede those of Cavanilles.

"Observations on the Stamina of the *Periploca Græca*," Linn. The author proposes a new loca-

tion of this plant, but is not peculiarly decisive.

The article next is, "On the *Neurada Procumbens* of Linnaeus." This plant was supposed to belong to the class Decandria; but Cavanilles is decidedly of opinion that it should be placed in the class Monadelphia, as he discovered that the stamina were all united at the base; he also found the fruit to be a drupe, and not a capsule, as supposed by Linnaeus.

"On the Fecundation of a new Species of *Adelia*." This plant, which is a female one, and grows in the royal botanic garden at Madrid, had flowered several years without ever producing seeds; the author, however, to his great surprise, at length discovered fruit on it. This circumstance led him to examine the plant, along with some of his pupils, with great minuteness, to ascertain whether it bore any male flowers, but without success. He at length observed, that a plant of an approximating genus, (the *Ceanothus Macrocarpus*,) grew near it, and therefore supposes the fecundation to have arisen from this circumstance; some of the fruit proved abortive.

The last of these observations is "On the real insertion of the Stamens in *Stapelia*." The author, in this paper, endeavours to throw new light on the structure of the parts of fructification of the *Stapelia variegata*, in addition to the remarks of Jacquin; and finding the stamina to be epigynous, he proposes to remove this genus, together with *Cynanchum*, *Periploca*, and *Asclepias*, from the eighth class, in the natural arrangement.

The twenty-seventh paper, containing "Genera et Species Filicum Ordini systematico redactarum, adjectis Synonymis et Iconibus selectis, nec non Speciebus recentior detectis, et demum plurimis dubiosis, ulterius investigandis. Auctore Prof. O. Swartz."—(*Schrader's Botanisches Journal*, Band II. p. 1-120.) is a laboured, and, we doubt not, will be found a useful paper. To enumerate the names of all the genera and species, would be to bring too great a multitude of Latin words before our readers; and as the paper possesses

all the conciseness of which the subject admits, it leaves no room for abridgment: we must therefore refer the botanist, desirous of farther information, to the work itself. We have no hesitation in recommending it to his notice. The author first gives a conspectus of the genera, under the several orders, *Annulatæ*, *Exannulatæ*, and *Genera Filicibus affinia*; afterwards the genera under several divisions. After describing the several species, he has given *Inquirendæ*, or a list of those plants which are yet dubiously known, in order to incite botanists to ascertain whether they be properly placed; but if improperly, to what genus they truly belong.

The next paper contains "Some account of Don Joseph Celestine Mutis, Chief of the Spanish Botanical Expedition to Santafé de Bogotá, in South America."

Joseph Celestine Mutis was born at Cadiz in the year 1734, and shewing an early inclination for science, his parents were willing to profit by this disposition, and therefore intended him for the profession of medicine, and he was accordingly placed under the tuition of Don Pedro Virgilio, an eminent surgeon at that place, where he remained till 1755, and from whence he went to Seville, in order to matriculate in the university of that city.

The declining state of the health of Ferdinand the Tenth of Spain occasioning the summoning of the best medical practitioners to Madrid, amongst whom was his late preceptor Don Virgilio, he took Mutis along with him to the capital, as his companion. At Madrid he made many acquaintances and friends, amongst whom was Don Ricardo Wall, then minister of state, by whom a pension from the king was proposed to Mutis, for the purpose of enabling him to travel. The health of Ferdinand, however, occasioned a change in the Spanish ministry, and the scheme was dropped; but his knowledge in anatomy and physiology procured him the professional chair in the former science.

A zeal for the acquirement of knowledge having about this time

broken forth in Spain, and the youthful Spaniards becoming inclined to vie with the travellers of other nations; Mutis also being seized with the general fervor, was induced by this and some other circumstances, to embark for New Spain, with the Marquis de la Vega, then appointed viceroy of New Granada, as his physician.—Mutis, while at Cadiz, had formed an acquaintance with the Swedish consul at that port, an intelligent man, and who supplied him with the early works of Linnæus, who was then in his meridian; he also was the means of promoting a correspondence between him and the father of modern botany; and this circumstance was one of the principal causes of his becoming known to the world, he generally taking more pains with observing than with writing.

On his arrival at Santafé de Bogotá, Mutis found that fanaticism, prejudice, ignorance, and monkery had choked up the only fountain of knowledge in the country, as the professors of the university were as ignorant as the people around them. This circumstance, instead of discouraging him, roused all his energies; he proposed a plan, which, should it succeed, would have the effect of exciting the students to the love of knowledge: he, therefore, obtained leave of the viceroy to give a course of lectures on mathematics, which his exertions soon contributed to render a popular study, to the great danger of the lecturer, as it brought the whole hive of monkery about his ears, and subjected him to the fangs of the inquisition, which, had it not been for the protection afforded him by his patron, might quickly have ended in his destruction. The only consequence of all this bustle was, that those fathers, who were afraid of having their sons manufactured into necromancers, kept them away; whilst the more enlightened stuck to Mutis, and supported him more ardently than before, and his triumph was complete, the professorial chair of philosophy, mathematics, and natural history finally receiving the approbation of the court of Spain.

Mutis was not, however, merely a naturalist, he always considered gold and silver to be the staple productions of Mexico and Peru, and therefore directed his attention to the recovery of some silver mines, which he had reason to believe were lost from the negligence of former miners. He was unsuccessful in his pursuit; and though he incurred great expences by the project, he was not altogether unrewarded, as he acquired an extensive geological knowledge of the structure of the Cordilleras, which, should he ever be disposed to make known to the world, would throw much light on the internal structure of those mountains.

The great expence incurred by his unsuccessful attempt, led Mutis to embrace the clerical profession, after declining the offer of some civil employment under the viceroy, his patron. His new vocation caused him to spend some time in a state of inactivity; but his active disposition, and most probably, a concurrence of favourable circumstances induced him again to pay his attention to the discovery of silver: he therefore pitched on a romantic situation at Sapo, in the government of Mariquita, near the town called Ybagué. At this place, he chiefly divided his time between the furtherance of his project and the acquirement of natural history, particularly botany; and occasionally gave medical advice to the people of the neighbourhood, who soon regarded him as a kind of tutelar deity. His hopes, with respect to the discovery of silver, being again blasted, he resolved to rest quietly at Sapo, remote from the capital, and unknown to Europe. Mutis resided at this place till the year 1778, when Don Antonio Caballero y Gorgora arrived at Santafé, in the character of archbishop.—This circumstance induced the whole of the clergy of the diocese to send him letters of congratulation; amongst these, the one of Mutis attracted his attention; and finding, on inquiry, the writer to answer the expectation formed of him from the letter, he resolved to pay him a visit, which he did the succeeding year; and though the archbishop remained with him

only a few days, yet he acquired so high a degree of estimation for his talents, as to induce him to interest the minister for the affairs of India in favour of Mutis: the result was, a present of 8000 *pesos duros*, from the king, and a pension of 2000 more annually; with the title of botanist and astronomer royal, and the appointment of superintendant to a proposed botanical expedition, undertaken with a view of ascertaining the vegetable treasures of New Granada. The superintendants of the botanic garden now opened a correspondence with Mutis; and he quickly became as well known to his countrymen as he had all along been to foreigners, particularly to Linnaeus, who had affixed his name to a plant, and caused him to be elected a member of the academies of Upsal and Stockholm.

Mutis now became so well known, and so great a favourite with the King of Spain, that he was granted an additional sum of 2000 *pesos fuertes* per annum, to defray any extra expence he might incur as director of the intended expedition: he also received orders to point out the books, instruments, and other things requisite; which were forthwith procured from the most eminent artists in London and Paris. Having chosen an ingenious creole, and a few draughtsmen as his assistants, he set out on his tour through the kingdom, in the year 1783. The zeal and activity with which they commenced their operations, soon compelled his companion to retire to Santafé, from ill health; whilst Mutis fixed his head-quarters at Mariquita. At this place he paid much attention to the *Cinchona*, and *Canella*, and devoted much time to the culture of the *Indigofera tinctoria*, with a view to make his countrymen more thoroughly acquainted with the uses and value of that plant. Here he is said to have discovered the true nutmeg, called by the natives *Otowa*. The unhealthiness of the country round Mariquita, added to the zeal with which he pursued his investigations, at length brought on a nervous complaint, which put a stop to his collecting materials for a *Flora Bogotensis*. The king, however, becoming acquainted

with this circumstance, desired him to nominate persons to execute his plans, and to establish a botanic garden at Santafé. He, in consequence, chose one of his former pupils, Don Francisco Zea, a native of the province of Antioquia, and wrote to Quito for an additional number of draughtsmen. The result of their joint labours has been descriptions, and highly finished drawings of the plants of that part of the country, executed with all the accuracy imaginable.

Mutis, and his companion Zea, were pursuing their course with the most ardent vigour, when the latter was arrested as an agent in a pretended conspiracy, and imprisoned at Santafé till 1797. He was then sent to Madrid to be tried, where he was quickly liberated, and forthwith availed himself of the opportunity afforded, through the application of Mutis, to visit Paris, in order to the collection of information relative to the formation of a *Flora Bogotensis*, and is now the successor of Cavanilles, as professor of botany, and director of the botanic garden of Madrid.

We shall conclude our account of this paper with the last paragraph.

"What has been said may be sufficient as a sketch of the life of a man who having, during a long series of years, extended his studies to so many branches of knowledge, has treasured up a number of observations relative to the natural and political history of Granada, not to be acquired without a long continued application, and an ingenuity like his. As a botanist, Mutis is well known throughout Europe; and as a statesman, the viceroys have made it a constant rule to consult him in all important and arduous undertakings; and what is very rare in those regions, his advice has always been in favour of the people, who therefore love and respect him as one of their most active benefactors."

The twenty-ninth is a useful paper, and contains "Remarks on the Generic Characters of the Decandrous Papilionaceous Plants of New Holland. By James Edward Smith, M. D. F. R. S. P. L. S." The plants on which the author offers remarks, and of

which he gives descriptions, &c. are, *Pultenæa*, *Aotus*, *Gompholobium*, *Chorizema*, *Daviesia*, and *Viminaria*. The student will find the remarks on these plants of great utility:

The thirteenth communication contains a "Description of *Bauera Rubiæfolia*, by R. A. Salisbury, Esq. F. R. S. &c." The description is full, and is accompanied by a plate, illustrative of the subject.

The thirty-first paper contains some useful "Remarks on some parts of the Hedwigian System of Mosses, with a Monograph of the Genus *Bartramia*. By Dawson Turner, Esq. F. R. S. &c." These remarks on the system of Hedwig, are useful; more particularly when applied to the neighbouring genera. The species which he enumerates are, *fontana*, *marchica*, *spharocarpa*, *Menziesii*, (hitherto a non-descript.) *Oederiana*, *pomiformis*, *crispa*, *squarrosa*, *arcuata*, *Halleriana*. A plate accompanies this communication, containing figures of the *B. Menziesii*, and *B. Squarrosa*.

The thirty-second paper contains "Observations on the Natural Order of the Onagraceæ, by A. L. Jussieu. (*Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle*, vol. iii. p. 315.) The object of these remarks is to ascertain the genera which should belong to this order. It, as usual, contains some useful information. The paper is accompanied with a plate representing the parts of fructification of *Proserpinaca*, *Myriophyllum verticillatum*, *Hippuris*, *Lopezia racemoza*, *Goniocarpus micranthus* and *G. scaber*.

The thirty-second paper contains, "Some Observations on the preceding Paper, with the Description of two Species of *Goniocarpus*, by C. König." The descriptions of these plants are laboured and full; as is the "Description of the *Amomum excavum*, by John Sims, M. D." which is accompanied with a plate, illustrative of the description.

The last communication, "Some further account of the *Abacá*, from the French MS. transmitted to David Lance, Esq. from Manilla, and communicated by the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks," contains some additional remarks on the

preparation of this useful plant, and the instruments used in the process.

Having given a short account of the various papers in the miscellaneous, we now come to notice the reviewing department, which is occupied with Michaux's *Flora Boreali-Americana*; and Willdenow's *Hortus Berolinensis*. The reviews are conducted in the usual manner, the reviewer being more inclined to give an account of the subject of each book, than a mere crude opinion.

The miscellaneous articles, of which we shall just give the heads, are—On the importance of the Prince of Wales's Island for the Culture of Spice, &c.—Letter from Humboldt to Professor Cavannes.—Davall's Herbarium, extracted from a Letter of Mr. W. F. Drake, of Norwich, to Mr. König.—From Letters of Dr. Roxburgh, Calcutta, to A. B. Lambert, Esq.—Blight in Wheat.—Extraordinary growth of the Bilberry.—Measurement of Oaks.—Observations on *Rhus Toxicodendron*, and *R. Radicans*.—Duhamel's *Traité des Arbres*.—Vahl's new Edition of *Species Plantarum*.—Death of Dr. Charles Allioni.

We now close our account of the first volume of the *Annals of Botany*, a work, with which we have been much pleased. The design has been well sketched out, and we are perfectly satisfied with the execution, the editors having performed their part with ingenuity and industry. As a book of reference, it must necessarily be in the hands of every person interested in the study of botany, as almost every page contains new or more accurate information. The memoirs of eminent naturalists, with which the work is occasionally interspersed, add much interest to it, and will afford entertainment to the general as well as to the scientific reader.

Division of the Company. Octavo, pp. 600. 12s. White.

THIS valuable work contains a full and accurate detail of the affairs of the Artillery Company. Its author, with no common industry, has gathered together the most interesting facts relative to this ancient and honourable association of citizens; and we meet with many particulars gratifying to our curiosity.

The whole work is distributed into twelve chapters, the last of which divides itself into eleven sections, including the history of the company, from 1760 to the last peace. There is also an appendix, comprehending the addresses of 1794, and rules of the company, &c.

Of the style in which the volume is written, we shall give the introduction as a specimen.

"At a crisis like the present, eventful to all European nations, but peculiarly momentous to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and their dependencies; when, not only to blessings for which we have toiled with unwearied assiduity—the property which we have acquired by laborious exertions—the more valuable and incalculable riches which our brave and venerable ancestors have transmitted to our trust—the birth-right of our country—the constitutional privileges of our free, because equipoised, government—the mild and tolerant spirit of our protestant church—the protection of our colonial dominions—the extension of our commerce, and the maintenance of our naval honour and power—our own personal safety, and the rampart which nature forms in the human breast, as the ever blessed vanguard of our wives and children; when these are threatened with more than conquest, with annihilation itself, by an implacable and desperate enemy, whose successful usurpation of the monarchy of France, was neither sanctioned by birth, by title, nor by conquest, it becomes essentially interesting to the well regulated mind of every virtuous citizen of this empire, to suspend, for a while, the peaceful

XX. *The HISTORY of the Honourable ARTILLERY COMPANY of the City of LONDON, from its earliest Annals, to the Peace of 1802. By ANTHONY HIGHMORE, Solicitor, Member of the South-East*

habits of his life, and, while all these endearing ties of public patriotism, and generous affection cling round his heart, to stand forward in the strong phalanx of united brotherhood, and to prepare his most active energy to meet the sharpest fury of the attack, and to repel the meditated blow.

"Hence, it cannot but form an interesting source of reflection, encouraging to, and equal with the unexampled alacrity and ardent spirit, never sufficiently to be admired and revered, which, at this period, pervades, not only this expanded metropolis, but every town and almost every village in the kingdom; to review the history of a military association of citizens, whose principle is as loyal and voluntary, as it is independent; whose public services have been sanctioned and recognised by the early annals of our history, and whose steady firmness in the maintenance of national independence and civil order, and the just and mutual rights of the social and established union of the state, has even placed it, in the times of public danger, foremost in the path of honour. The records of the society, to which the reader's attention is solicited, offer the names of many of our monarchs, the heir apparent of the crown, the first of our nobility, and those who have enobled themselves by probity and valour; these have fought to enrol themselves in all periods of our history, and to contribute their exertions, in conjunction with its numerous other members, practising the grace and utility of the military art, and serving in the upright course of public peace.

"When I survey this long and venerable roll, which hands down to the present period a vast unmeasured line of ancestry, by whose active vigour, and generous ardour, I am now in possession of the primary blessings of society, my soul is dilated with unrestrained gratitude to their memory; and while I cast a conscious glance upon the latter page, whereon my public signature is retained, the fervent prayer, that even I too may deserve some favour, however small, in my country's cause, dwells in

my heart, and rises up to heaven with irresistible devotion."

At the close of the volume the author has given the following energetic lines, with which our readers will, we have no doubt, be pleased:—

UNITE AND CONQUER.

While *Britain's* thunder on the ocean roars,

Her sons at home, in shining arms behold!

From every fount her pristine valour pours,

And ev'ry plain renews her deeds of old!

Proud to protect, yet generous to save,

Her nobler heroes Gallia's threats despise;

Infuriate rage, with steadier courage brave,

And arms—to arms! re-echo to the skies!

Grateful to heaven—she lifts her beaming eye,

Recounts the deeds her gallant sons have done!

Recites her glories gifted from on high—

Her altars sheltered—and her charters won!

Pleased with her tale—the star of Brunswick shines,

Cheers every heart, and swells each ardent breast;

Fans the bright flame that Briton's cause refines,

Urges the brave—yet succours the distressed.

Its genial ray domestic life endears,

Its fostering smile parental love expands,

Merit rewards, and soothes affliction's tears,

Virtue enobles—fealty commands.

The sacred source, with dignity and love,

Pours in a stream of light—her equal laws,

All catch the ray, exulting to improve

Her call to glory in their country's cause.

Shall the fell *tyrant*, with usurping
power,
Chill the warm threshold of domestic joy?

Shall brutal lust, with lawless rapine scour,
Fair Albion's plains—and Albion's love destroy?

Rather should ev'ry swelling bosom break—

Rather should ev'ry tie of life dissolve—

Rather should death one ruthless havoc make,

And all the ends of time at once revolve!

The soul of Britons is their native land;

True to themselves, their union'd hearts are one:

On British ground, Britons shall firmly stand—

On British ground their birth-right Britons won!

Come then, proud *tyrant*, of imperious boast,

Thou who hast fled from Sydney's gallant arm;

And shrunk from shades of *Jaffa's* murder'd host,

Dream not to conquer Britain by alarm!

Come—brave the furrows of the refluxing tide;

Come—dare Britannia's lance, and dare her frowns;

Come—bid her sons thy dark'p'd fate decide,

One soul—one arm in all—defend her crown!

FATHER supreme! who guid'st the righteous cause,

Deign to protect thy favour'd sea-girt isle;

Our grateful altars, and our equal laws,

Shall pour their increase to thy hallow'd smile! A. H.

This entertaining work is embellished with an admirable portrait of the Prince of Wales, with a plan of all the marks belonging to the company in the fields near Finsbury, with the true distance as they stood in 1737, for the use of the long-bows, cross-bows, hand guns, and artillery; and with a fac-simile of the hand-writing of

several illustrious characters, who have been connected with the company.

XXI. FLIM-FLAMS! or, *The LIFE and ERRORS of MY UNCLE, and the AMOURS of MY AUNT! With Illustrations and Obscurities. By Messieurs TAG, RAG, and BOBTAIL. With an illuminating Index. Three Volumes 12mo. Nine Plates. 18s. boards. 1805. Murray.*

WHEN we reflect on the multitude of theories which occupy the attention of the literati of this theorising age, and which are daily obtruded upon the world; when we consider the extravagant lengths to which many of the inventors push their speculations, we shall be little surprized that their productions should now and then become, in a greater or less degree, the objects of ridicule; which, though by no means a test of truth, may assist in distinguishing what is really true science. True science will always be cherished, and maintain its ground in the estimation of mankind, whilst the false will always lie at the mercy of any "wicked wight" who may feel inclination and ability to hold it up to public view; and we are persuaded, that few people in the habits of perusing the productions of our system-mongers, will deny, that they contain sufficient ground for the attacks of ridicule.

The author of this work does not, like the pursuits of literature, set off with bold and sarcastic censure; he is rather on the laughing side of the question; he only makes himself merry at the expence of the fripperies, or "flim-flams" of science, and never touches the objects of his censure in severity. He laughs, but does not grumble at the fripperies of the day; and the perusal of his lucubrations has often tempted us to smile at the vagaries of philosophers and philosophers. We think, on the whole, however, that he does not always sufficiently dilate his subjects; they are often treated on too concisely, and consequently rather resemble a disposition to keeness than genuine attempts at laughter: yet we have no doubt

but "Flin-flams" will afford much entertainment, as it exhibits the luxuriances of all the fashionable scientific pursuits of the present day in one view. A greater number of ludicrous catastrophes would have added much to the interest of the work, as it would have kept the playful side of the subject longer under the eye, and have made the author's design more obvious, whereas, at present, we are frequently compelled to read the work with some attention, in order to enter fully into the spirit of the author's remarks. The intention of "Flin-flams," evidently appears to be ridicule; we think, therefore, that the author ought to be tried by his peers; and as the entertainment of his readers is his object, he certainly ought not to be tried by the laws of severe criticism.

The subject of this work will hardly admit of a grave analysis; and as giving the contents of each chapter might be judged needless, when the design of the whole is understood, we have little more to do in this instance than to present our readers with a brief sketch of the greater outlines; and to complete the picture with a few extracts, to enable them to appreciate the style and execution. It professes to be written by the ignorant nephew of a scientific uncle, who ranges by turns through a complete round of science, and *virtu*: and his text not being supposed to be always perfectly intelligible, it is illuminated by notes, and notes on notes, in a true Shakesperian style, by that worshipping fraternity, Tag, Rag, and Bobtail.

My Uncle, like most other great literary characters, is a member of a literary society, named "the Constellation," held at the Cat and the Fiddle. The stars of this constellation are, besides My Uncle and his Nephew, CACO-NOUS, one of his most intimate friends; an "awakener of the mind," and author of a system of "ante-natal impressions," and of Godwinizing. BULBO, a cattle fancier, and "Orchardist of all England."—DICK, a poet, and writer of "Sonnets to his Grandmother;" and

MO. EPIT. 1805.

RAPHAEL CONTOUR, Esq. an artist, and amateur in virtu.—

These bright stars are consequently often introduced, and particularly the first and fourth, in the course of the work.

The above being the principal actors in the scene; and having explained the design of the work, we shall, without further preface, introduce a few extracts to the reader's notice. The following will illustrate the author's manner of treating the subjects he takes under consideration.

"Yes! I have seen this great man, after, perhaps, pumping out some unhappy creature's life in his air-pump, or with the bistoury of the anatomist turning inside out the polypus as he would his stocking—in the most pathetic strains lament over the fate of his *cabbages in the dark!*

"My Uncle, like other great Philos, took it into his head that all vegetables are animals; indeed, naturalists are puzzled to distinguish them from animals, though ignorant people are not puzzled—they have lungs, blood, bones, the skin, the feed, the perspirations, and, for aught he knew, the soul of a christian. A *sun-flower* perspires nineteen times as much as a *healthy man!* Nay, further, they slept and waked (the young ones sleep more than the old ones) spontaneously moved about, and were stimulated by all the passions of man—a sensible *vegetable man* he deemed as much our fellow-citizen as a *man-vegetable*—and as for the *vegetable women*, they were as shameless and as wanton as some other girls; but since their gallantries and secret memoirs have been musically recorded in the botanic garden—there is no necessity to touch on those delicate matters.

"As some readers, in the sweet simplicity of their ignorance, may, perchance, imagine that, like Ixion, I am clasping a Juno in the air—I must instruct them to enter into the feelings of my Uncle respecting his *cabbages in the dark!*

"Persuaded, as this great member of the Linnæan Society was, that vegetables had a sense of *light*, which as yet we cannot comprehend, he made an experiment by

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growing cabbages in a dark room. There, to his grief and happiness, did these delicate prisoners grow—not *green*—but *white*—with vexation! When, afterwards, he made a small opening to let in the sun's beams, instantly; and with those bold feelings of liberty which characterize these cabbage-prisoners, these disconsolate white cabbages *sprung forwards* to the place where the light entered. And, as these cabbages (I heard a profound professor remark) did not incline where the light *FELL*, but were *drawn to the spot* where it *ENTERED*, the experiment did most evidently shew that these cabbages intended, as well as they could, to break out at the window, and take a leap at the sun. This fact is well known; not, therefore, without a brotherly feeling, my Uncle grieved when he vexed his cabbages till he turned their heads grey with premature sorrows!

"Truly, Jacob was a man of the tenderest feelings, nor could he patiently suffer a *STONE* to be calumniated. He felt a due indignation whenever he heard the vulgar exclaim, 'as unfeeling as a stone!' We have reason, he would say, to believe, that, on the contrary, *STONEs* *vegetate*; and he believed that a *STONE* either *is*—or *has been*—'organized, enlivened, and animated'!!!

"Some readers (no doubt among that multitude whom one day I shall have at my heels, or at my tombstone) will never do justice to the character of my Uncle as a *man of feeling*—and, after reading this curious and important chapter, may suspect (for there is nothing so slow of comprehension as a vulgar mind) that my Uncle, notwithstanding his unlimited researches in philosophy, was becoming mad, and more mad, as he advanced in them."

The disasters of Aurelians are most feelingly described. We shall, therefore, present the reader with an account of one or two;

"The most provoking thing that happens to an Aurelian is a circumstance I am now to disclose. *The Queen of Spain* is double-brooded! one brood flies in May at Gamlingay, in Cambridgeshire; the other brood, in September, flies near

London, but not at Gamlingay.—*The Queen of Spain* in London, as you may imagine, is not worth having, and strange reports (groundless, I hope,) are going about, that her Spanish Majesty's brood, near London, are a spurious race, or, to speak clearly—bastards! But all the Aurelians are on the wing, and mad, and roystering after the *Queen of Spain* at Gamlingay!—My Uncle, having the gout, went down to Gamlingay, and hunted that rare and beautiful *papilio*, in a post-chaise; and, what was more singular, although the *Queen of Spain* lamed our horses, we caught her!"

"But he possessed the *Papilio Lencomclanes*, an undescribed species, my Uncle's grand monster, and which so long perplexed the Society, till the fellow, who sold it to my Uncle, confessed, on his death-bed, that Mr. Jacob's undescribed butterfly consisted of a *rhinoceros beetle*, to which he had nicely glued (our curate gave the hint for this *appliqué*) a pair of wings, after a *design of Stothard's*."

As the chapters are in general too long for insertion, and would be mutilated by partial extracts, we close our account of Flim-Flams, with the thirty-sixth.

"My Uncle, at this time, was busied with certain inventions, which he had laid before the Committees of the Adelphi Society—but his important discoveries, being rather of a metaphysical character, connecting mind with matter, he puzzled those laborious mechanics with two ideas at a time! Those who had eyes and hands to decide on a gimlet, or a gimlet-hole, in five minutes were fatigued to death by his close reasoning about some invention, which they conceived to be no invention at all!

"My Uncle had nearly discovered 'the perpetual motion,' only losing two seconds in 3700—but the aforementioned society, who are precise and obstinate, maliciously asserted, that for a *perpetual motion* one indispensable thing is required—*materials which will never wear out*! Now, my Uncle, after all his pains, was vexed to be so flouted! So he affirmed that

he knew of such materials; and what seemed wonderful, they were carefully preserved in the society itself! He told them that he did not choose openly to reveal this precious secret, but would deliver it down to posterity in the same guarded manner the illustrious Roger Bacon did, when he discovered gunpowder, by forming a kind of anagram of the composition. My Uncle, therefore, deposited the following letters in their archives, which they have carefully preserved:

BLCKHDS!

These, he declares, to be materials which will never wear out among them, and which, therefore, are what is required by the said society, with which to construct a perpetual motion!

"That society, for the encouragement of art and science, have offered a handsome premium for catching porpoises in our river!—to extract oil from them; that is, from the porpoises, not from the society! They insist, at least, on having thirty! My Uncle employed a man ten years to watch for porpoises; the man said, *he once saw one in a storm!* So that I do not think the encouragement they pompously boast is so great as some imagine. My Uncle, too, liked to get a name at a cheap rate, and offered a handsome premium for catching a whale in a kind of net.

"But certainly one of the most useful projects of my Uncle's, in what has been called *popular philosophy* for the common uses of life, and which, in my humble opinion, excels any of Count Rumford's, was that of driving an obnoxious pig! It was laid before the committee of the present society, but little comprehended by their mechanical genius, who have never attended to the studies of platonic metaphysics. It is a mode which ought to be generally known, and practised in all families: it consists simply in driving the pig the contrary way you wish him to go! a principle which, had the great philosopher HERBES been acquainted with, would have been advantageously introduced into his 'Philosophy of Man!'

"My Uncle had been one day expecting Mr. TOPSY-TURVY

for three hours—he had intreated to have the honour of sweeping one of our chimnies by a new mode! It was keen frosty weather, when a violent ringing was heard at the gate, and Cæsar exclaimed, a post-chaise has come up, all of itself, neither post-boy, nor post-horse!—We looked out, and beheld Mr. TOPSY-TURVY wiping his face, and, in such frosty weather, was reeking with perspiration. He bounced into the parlour—our eyes had not deceived us—he seemed to have just leapt out of a hot-bath.

"You are in a very comfortable state, observed my Uncle—my philosophical fire-place can't heat us to-day—nor, indeed, my Uncle might have added, any day in cold weather.

"I must give up the invention—cried TOPSY-TURVY, visibly agitated. I am parboiled; and, if you speak much, I shall simmer into a passion!

"This is, observed my Uncle, some unfortunate conclusion of some happy invention!

"Certainly it is a happy one—continued the philosophical post-chaise driver—for the last mile I have been travelling these three hours in my self-moving post-chaise, worked by a steam-engine! Could I but have borne it! but every piece of me drops with humidity! see how my head steams with vapour.

"You smell just like a steamed potatoe, observed my Uncle; but take my advice, and the post-chaise, worked by steam, may yet succeed. Consider yourself as a piece of meat to be cooked. Take away the lid from your pot, that is, remove the head of the post-chaise; the steam-boiler, being in the body of the chaise, you will only feel your extremities undergo the process of stewing, and in a keen frosty day this will be very tolerable.

"I can't tell, my friend, (observed TOPSY-TURVY,) what part of me may not be dissipated by evaporation. A pneumatic post-chaise is a very ingenious invention, but the inventor shall never ride in it.

"We told Mr. TOPSY-TURVY that the chimney was ready to be swept; but he declined chimney-

sweeping that day, as it was necessary for him to climb a little up the chimney to fix his apparatus—and besides, he was still steaming, and by no means in a state favourable to chimney-sweeping.

“MR. TOPSY-TURVY curiously amused us with various inventions. He took out of his pocket a pair of tongs, shovel, and poker, which he always carried about him! They folded up very neatly, and were completely a *pocket-poker*, *pocket-tongs*, and a *pocket-shovel*! I wondered what could have led this great genius to this great discovery.

“He described his new scavenger's cart to clean the streets. It had brooms on one side to brush up the mud in a heap, and then turning the cart, it had self-rising shovels on the other to scoop the mud into the cart.

“He had also, what he called a *complete umbrella*, built upon the principle of a light moveable sentry-box, with two small windows for the eyes.

“He had a scheme for *tanning certain human hides*, which, if *properly beaten*, would make excellent leather.”

XXII. *A TREATISE on the ANTIPTHISICAL PROPERTIES of the LICHEN ISLANDICUS; and the Medical and Dietetic Management of the different Species of PULMONARY CONSUMPTION, &c.* By RICHARD REECE, M. D. *Second Edition*, 12mo. pp. 96. 1805.—Longman and Co.

THE destructive nature of the pulmonary consumption, being so well known in this country, particularly in large towns, we have no doubt but every publication professing to treat on this formidable disease, will meet with due attention, not only from the medical world, but from the public at large: we therefore avail ourselves of the opportunity offered, by an enlarged edition of this useful treatise, to present a short account of its contents to the notice of our readers.

The author commences his work with an historical sketch of the use which has hitherto been made of

the Iceland Liverwort, in affections of the lungs. The Danes appear to have been the first who introduced it into practice in this part of the world, in the sixteenth century; but its qualities were known to the Icelanders as far back as the fourteenth. Linnæus confirmed its reputation in pulmonary complaints in 1737; but, notwithstanding the respectability of his name, it was little regarded, till Scopoli published the result of his experiments, in 1769; since which period it has excited more attention. It has not, however, been introduced into England more than eight years; and it was not given a trial sufficient to ascertain its real qualities, till the author of this work, and the *Medical and Physical Journal*, brought it forward with some *éclat*.

After a rapid view of its history, Dr. R. proceeds to enumerate the medical properties of the Iceland Liverwort, which are of two kinds; the one, mucilaginous and nutritive, and consequently well adapted to the delicate stomachs of consumptive patients: the other, in which its antihætic quality principally consists, is bitter, “which to a certain extent, is evidently of an anodyne or composing nature, allaying cough, and unlike opium, at the same time facilitating expectoration, abating hectic fever, and quieting the whole system without constipating the bowels. This bitter quality, likewise, possesses a peculiar tonic power, differing from others of that class, in strengthening the organs of digestion, without increasing the action of the heart and arteries; the union of such properties, unquestionably forms a most valuable remedy in the treatment of pulmonary consumption.” The author proceeds with an account of the various modes hitherto adopted of preparing it, many of which are faulty for want of a proper combination of its two properties, the due admixture of which must immediately strike our readers to be essentially necessary, to the full effect of the remedy.

The various operose methods of administering the Lichen Islandicus, and which had in a greater or less degree impeded its utility, in-

duced the author to give it in the state of powder, the method in use amongst the Icelanders themselves. The success resulting from this mode, led him to recommend it to the faculty at large, in his former treatise on this subject; and he has now the satisfaction to find it adopted by the principal medical characters in this country. The method of preparing this powder, which Dr. R. calls *farida*, is next given, and is followed with directions for combining it with cocoa and chocolate; together with a variety of means of rendering it a useful and pleasant repast, in conjunction with milk or water.

The next part of the subject is devoted to the examination and reprobation of the voluminous farrago of clumsy and mischievous preparations of the Iceland moss, so pompously held out to view, under the titles, *Concentrated Syrup*, *Iceland Chocolate*, *Iceland Lozenges*, and *Iceland Jelly*, with a long auxiliary train of *creams*, *biscuits*, *gruels*, &c. &c. The author judiciously points out the inefficacy of these preparations; which, instead of affording even the prospect of utility, must inevitably contribute to bring a valuable remedy into undeserved disgrace; by disappointing expectations, which, though they could have no ground in reality, yet might be sufficiently imposing on people unable to judge of their real merits. These observations, which appeared in the former edition of this work, gave rise to some scurrilous remarks on it, in a periodical medical publication. The author attempted to vindicate himself, by sending a letter to the editor, which that gentleman did not think proper to publish. Having, in consequence, no resource left in that quarter, he details the whole circumstances here, with a series of remarks on the treatise of Monf. Regnault, whom the author conceives to be at the bottom of these remarks.—We are scarcely satisfied as to the propriety of its appearance in this place; but, if the same publication will not admit of defence, as well as attack, we are inclined to excuse him; more particularly as he conveys the antidote to Monf. Regnault's *pills* and *lozenges*, and

abuse, where his poison is most likely to be mischievous, viz. amongst such of the friends of those afflicted with this dangerous malady as may peruse his book.

The last part of the work, which is by far the most valuable, contains histories, methods of treatment, and the dietetic management of the various species of consumption, with a brief account of such medicines as may be employed with advantage as auxiliaries to the Lichen Islandicus, in their different stages. The author judiciously divides them into, *Phthisis Catarrhalis*, *Pituitosa*, *Serophulosa*, *Hæmoptica*, *Ab Adhæsū*, and *Chloretica*.

It has been generally supposed, that the species of consumption most prevalent in this country, had its origin in tubercular affection of the lungs. The author, however, has ascertained, from dissection and other authentic sources, that the most common kind is a degenerated catarrh, or, in his own words, "that it is a morbid secretion of the tracheal and bronchial glands, attended with a chronic inflammation of the internal membrane:" which he consequently calls *Phthisis Catarrhalis*. The history and method of treating this species of consumption highly deserves notice.

In his reasoning the Dr. entirely rids himself of the jargon concerning absorption of pus; and seems to have made a nearer approximation to the genuine history and seat of phthisis, than has been accomplished by any other writer. Should the hectic fever run high, he recommends three grains of sulphurated kali in a little distilled water, as one of the best means of allaying heat, and increased circulation, even where digitalis has failed.—He also recommends two-thirds, or at most a grain of the Acetated Ceruse three or four times a day, in conjunction with balsamics—(*Bals. Canad. vel Copaivæ*) as an admirable allayer of irritation under the same circumstances. The above remedies, in conjunction with counter-irritants, *e. g.* a seton, or a perpetual blister on the chest, mineral acids to check profuse perspiration, and native vegetable ones in colliquative diarrhoeas, are the

principal of the new remedies he proposes. Our limits prevent our entering more at large into an account of each, which we otherwise feel much inclined to do.—We may add, however, that the author has a high opinion of the utility of distilled water in these complaints. The account of the Phthisis Catarrhalis, is closed with judicious directions for the dietetic management of consumptive patients, more or less applicable in all the other species enumerated in this treatise.

The Phthisis Pituitoria generally occurs about the age of forty and upwards; it commences with the ordinary symptoms of catarrh, with increased secretion, the patient sometimes spitting as much as four pounds of mucus in twenty-four hours. The hectic fever only supervenes at a late period of the disease, as after it has come on, the patient soon dies, apparently, from suffocation. Nauseating doses, or gentle emetics are the first and best remedies in this and the last disease; and in conjunction with proper diet and a judicious selection of the remedies above enumerated, will often prove successful.

The Phthisis Scrophulosa, arises from tubercles in the lungs, and when they suppurate, it is called Phthisis Consummata. The author, for the first of these, recommends such remedies as are the most likely to render the tubercles quiescent, because, if that can be accomplished, the patient may live many years without much inconvenience. He also strongly recommends the Acetated Ceruss as a powerful allayer of irritation in this species of consumption.

The principal remedy which the author advises in the Phthisis Hæmoptoica, is Digitalis, in conjunction with a proper diet, and a judicious selection of the other remedies which he recommends in treating on the first species. The Phthisis ab Adhæsu, was first noticed by Dr. Baillie; and Mr. Abernethy believes the adhesion of the lungs, which gives origin to it, to be one of the most common causes of consumption in this country. The disease is insidious in its approaches; the hectic fever only supervening a week or two

previously to the dissolution of the patient, and the early symptoms being chiefly a troublesome difficulty of breathing. The Phthisis Chlorotica requires the general treatment of scrophulous consumption, with a proper attention to the uterine secretion. The asthmatic consumption of Nosologists, is of a similar nature to that from scrophula. The Phthisis Syphilitica is rather the effect of mercury than of syphilis. The action brought on by the remedy, often converting latent tubercles into active ulcerations.

The above short account of these species of consumption, with their treatment, is rather written to excite the reader to examine for himself; and with a view of giving him an idea of the contents of the work, than offered as a detailed account of the author's practice. Were we to attempt to do him justice by analysis, it would occupy much more room than our limits can possibly allow. We therefore conclude our account of the work, with recommending it to the notice of every person concerned either directly or indirectly in the management of those dreadful complaints which so commonly and so insidiously destroy the most amiable and the most beautiful of the softer sex. We are always glad to see observation triumph over theory, as sound knowledge can alone be the result of proper attention to the phenomena presented by nature. Dr. R. does not disgust us with theoretical reasonings; his distinctions of the species of consumptions are founded on observation; and his practice, we have no hesitation in saying, is founded on experience. We look on this treatise as another attack on the strong holds of jargon and ignorance, and hope that every new work on medicine will contribute to the overthrow of the present physiologising system of the schools.

XXIII. BICKLEIGH VALE, with other POEMS. By NATHANIEL HOWARD. Sm. octavo, pp. 139. ss. Murray.

THE principal object of our labours is at all times the enabling of our readers to form their

opinion of a book from an analysis of its contents; but as the execution of works, in which the imagination is principally concerned, must necessarily be more attended to than the subject of them, we shall, in the present instance, content ourselves with giving a few extracts, thinking that to be the fairest way of enabling the public to appreciate the merits of the poems before us. Were we, however, to offer our opinion as to the relative merit of Mr. Howard's productions, we should rather prefer his translations to his original pieces. We are far, however, from thinking that the whole fall below mediocrity; on the contrary, they possess more strength than is commonly the case with the productions of the generality of contemporary poets. We will, however, let Mr. H.'s works speak for themselves, and leave the reader to draw his own conclusions.

The book commences with "Bickleigh Vale," the principal object of which is to describe a walk, to the vale, which is near Plymouth; the heads are—

"Approach of Morning.—Addresses to the Sun.—A susceptible mind receives a true delight from the beauties of Nature.—Advice to those particularly attached to a town-life.—A woodland picture.—Mid-day.—Insects in sunshine all employed; thence reflections on man.—A summer shower.—Happiness more apparent among cottagers; thence reflections on the effect of luxury in large towns.—A cottage family.—Rural garden.—Approach to moor-scenery.—Edmund and Eliza, a tale.—Bickleigh Church.—View of the Vale, &c.—Concluding with an Address to Evening."

The first extract which we shall make is from the Woodland Picture.

"Gay spreads the prospect; from the stream-fed banks
Loose floats the willow-foliage;
Alders bend
Their leafy locks, and pliant poplars wave.
From the brown sleep, the graceful ash o'erhangs
In quiv'ring, light luxuriance.—
Wide the lime

A massy shade expands. With
silvery trunks
Thin airy birch, and swelling
maples, rise.
Coy affens shiver all their twinkling leaves
To every frolic wind. Fantastic
oaks
Immenſe, their knotty boughs entwisting, throw
Solidity of deep, incumbent gloom.
Below! what funny interchange
of fields,
Of furzy slopes, and moss-clad
smoking cots,
Where plain Content with rustie
Quiet dwells!
There basking lies a summer-valley, fresh
With vivid verdure, fed by spouting rills.
There, thro' the shelving banks,
the brawling brook
Incessant foams; or with laborious
lapſe
Smooth wears the pebbles, or with
brighter tints
The fretted fragments stains:—
thence, calm it purls
Soft-tinkling, till it forms a liquid
plain
Capacious, on whose broad and
glaiſly breast
Sleep cool Serenity and limpid
Peace.

"The scene half-shadow'd, half-
illumin'd, spreads;
Fair Beauty colours with her
glowing hand
The woods and distant hills, that
change their shapes
As smile new tints, or vagrant
mists involve.
She tempers into smooth ethereal
calm,
The azure-stretching ocean, faintly
seen.
Still prodigal of charms, she fondly
flings
Deep in th' embosom'd vale her
mingled hues
Rich and exuberant; while the
lucid clouds
In floating negligence adorn the
ſky,
And soften, warm, and harmonize
the whole."

The following, "The Rural Evening" is from the miscellaneous original pieces.

"Lo! the sun enshrin'd in light,
Sinking from his heav'nly height;

Gilds the various clouds that fly
Slowly, thro' the blushing sky :
Tinges herds, and homeward
 swains,
Wood-side cots, and hills, and
 plains.

" Whom shall Indolence with-
 hold
From wild heaths, or cat'racts
 bold ?
From yon grove, or verdurous
 steep
Whence hoarse checquer'd riv'lets
 sweep ?
Where the insects, idly gay,
Sport, like youth, their lives
 away.
Where the thrush, of speckled
 breast,
Sings his callow brood to rest :
While the herds, that nearer lie,
Mutely mark the bounteous sky.

" Now afloat the sun's broad
 rays
Dim the plough-boy's careless
 gaze :
Wide the glowing prospect spreads,
Rich in woods, and rocks, and
 meads,

" Hence, what objects meet the
 sight,
Gay in magic tints of light,
Glitt'ring brooks by leisure trac'd,
Rustic wells with flow'rets grac'd ;
Woodbine-bow'rs, and cragged
 cells,
Sunless glades, where quiet dwells ;
Where the musing pleasures stray
Duly at the dusk of day.

" See! dun shadows steal around ;
Silence lifts to every sound ;
Echoes wait on ev'ry hill
Answering to each bubbling rill.
Bee-moths at this grey, cool hour,
Purser ev'ry shrinking flower.
Distant woods, all dubious lie
Mingled in the misty sky.
Clo'd are lids of violets blue ;
Roses sleep in limpid dew :
And, the glow-worm, thro' the
 night,
Sheds a chilly, emerald light.

" Ever thus, thro' vale and
 grove,
May my footsteps widely rove ;
While the swallow, child of spring,
Skims the lake, on hasty wing ;
While the woodlark's latest strains
Vibrate o'er the twilight plains.
While the moon, in lucid vest,
Leans on clouds her silvery breast,

And, reflect the virgin-streams,
All the beauty of her beams.

" Evening solemn thought in-
 spires ;
Checks the fever of desires ;
And, as the day's rude tumults
 cease,
Calms the soul to serious peace."

We are particularly pleased with
the following translation from the
Spanish of Garcilaso de la Vega.—
It is an ode on the happiness of a
country life.

" Thrice happy he, by Heav'n
 inspir'd,
Who lives in solitude retir'd :
Remote from folly, free from cares,
His soul unvex'd with human
 snares.
He fees no madly-pressing crowd ;
No lordly domes supremely proud,
Where flatter'ing foes beset the
 door

Athirst for favour, meanly poor.
Whilst he withdraws unskill'd to
 feign,

To fawn, to tremble, or complain.
" There, idly-tranquil in the
 shade,

By pine, or oaks, umbrageous
 made ;
He counts his flock, in peace se-
 rene,
That bound across the wooded
 green.

His mind, by temperate joys con-
 troll'd,
Abhors the blaze of cumberous
 gold.

" Him, fountain-murmurs lull
 to rest,
While sweetest day-dreams fill his
 breast ;

While feathery minstrels freely fly,
Or, sweetly warbling, charm the
 sky :

While neighb'ring bees in od'rous
 bowers

Drink nectar from the tender
 flowers.

The rustling grove—the gusty
 wind—

All, all conspire to sooth his
 mind."

We shall close our extracts with
an address " To a Cricket."

" Thrice welcome, little sport-
 ive guest,
Loud chirping in thy warm retreat ;
The dusk now dims the faded west,
And torrents swell, and tempests
 beat.

"Here Peace, without a murmur, reigns,
And none shall mar thy harmless mirth:
The redbreast here shall join his strains,
And peck his morsel from the hearth.

"While stiff'ning to the wint'ry breeze
Some insects stretch their dying forms—
Thou liv'st in sure domestic ease,
Unconscious of the tyrannous forms.

"Then, chirrup grateful for my care,
In transport strike the vocal wings;
Plain simple comforts shalt thou share,
And honied sweets without their stings."

A series of notes is given at the end of the work; which display considerable reading, and contain some neat remarks on several objects of natural history mentioned in the poem. The titles of the poems, besides Bickleigh Vale, which occupies nearly half of the volume, are, "On a Friend's Retreat.—To Want.—The Rural Evening.—A Mother to her Natural Son.—To a Red-Breast.—A Mother to her dead Infant.—To the Echo of a Grotto.—To a Swallow.—To Meditation.—The Tempest, from Metastasio.—To a Cricket.—Ad Spem.—In Adventum Veris.—Ad Salutem.—From l'Abate Carlo Severoli Faentino.—From Zappi.—From Garcilaso de la Vega.—To Horror.—Inscription for Okehampton Castle.—Inscription for Lidford Bridge.—Notes, &c."

XXIV. *THE BRITISH MISCELLANY*; or coloured Figures of new, rare, or little known Animal Subjects, not before ascertained to be Inhabitants of the British Isles; and chiefly in the Possession of the Author, JAMES SOWERBY, F. L. S. &c. No. I. II. III. 8vo. 1805. 2s. 6d. each. White.

THE leading object of this work is of a similar nature to that of the *Annals of Botany*, with
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this difference, that the British Miscellany confines itself to the delineation of such new animals as may from time to time be discovered or ascertained to be inhabitants of the British islands: it is published monthly; each number containing four plates, accompanied with as many corresponding pages of letter-press, occupied with the synonyma of authors, short English descriptions of the various subjects it embraces, and an account of their first discovery in this country. The professed object of the undertaking was, as the author expresses in his title, to admit nothing already published as British. A work of this kind, conducted with spirit, and with a strict attention to the rule laid down by the author, was much wanted; and though we approve of the plan, we cannot at all times give Mr. Sowerby the approbation we desire, from observing him frequently to deviate from his prescribed limits, the strict observance of which can alone insure the respectability of his work in the eye of the scientific naturalist.—We shall, however, enumerate the subjects contained in the numbers before us; and endeavour to point out the places in which we think Mr. S. mistaken.

The first plate contains a representation of the *Physiter bidens*, which Mr. S. gives as a new species of Cachalot, but expresses considerable doubt concerning it. This animal, which is of the whale kind, was sixteen feet long, and eleven in circumference in the thickest part, and was found on the coast of Scotland.

The second plate represents what our author calls the *Papilio blandina*, of Fabr. Ent. Syst. 1. p. 236.—In this circumstance, however, he is mistaken, and we therefore beg leave to remark, that it is neither of the *Blandina* of Fabr who has two distinct species under that name, in different parts of his Entom. Syst. The *Papilio* in question is the true *P. Ligetia* of Linn. Faun. Succ. This we know to be so, on the authority of a specimen so named in Linnæus's cabinet.

On the third plate, we have a delineation of a snake, here called

Coluber Dumfriensis. The account which accompanies it is extremely short and ambiguous. The author gives no history of it, nor does he mention its size: he is also silent as to its properties.

The fourth plate contains the *Achnia equina*, one of the Vermes Mollusca of Linn. and the *A. rufa* of Gmelin. We are doubtful, however, as to the propriety of both these names when applied to this figure; and Mr. S. leaves them open to inquiry.

The *Vespertilio Barbastellus*, a species of bat taken in the powder-mills at Dartford, occupies the fifth plate. It is here first made known as a British species.

The sixth plate represents the male and female harlequin duck, the *Anas Histrionica* and *A. Minuta* of Linnaeus, who mistook the dissimilar sexes of this beautiful bird for distinct species. An excellent account of it, with a copious synonymy, accompanies this plate. It was never published as British before. The specimens from which the present figures were taken, were shot in Scotland; Mr. S. does not say at what time, but we know it to have been about fifteen or twenty years ago.

The seventh plate displays what we conceive to be a hitherto undescribed species of Papilio, under the name of *Ligea*. If the reader will refer to our account of the second plate, he will find that this can hardly be its proper name: the synonymy given under it would seem to belong to the real *Ligea*, consequently to Mr. S.'s *P. Blandina*: the true *P. Ligea*, although here said to be new to Britain, is not so, having been given as British in 1785, in Martyn's *Aurelian's Vade Mecum*.

On the eighth plate is depicted the *Lineus Longissimus*, a new marine Vermes, of the order Intestina. A detached piece of this astonishing worm is said to have measured twelve feet! And a whole one, Mr. S. adds, is asserted by the Newhaven fishermen to be as many fathoms long. It is an extraordinary creature, and reminds us of the immensely long eels said to have been formerly seen in the Norwegian seas.

The ninth plate gives the *Mon-*

odon Monoceros, accompanied with a good description of that animal.

On plate the tenth should be the *Phalaropus hyperboreus*. The description of that rare bird is good; there, however, is some error in the numbering of the plate, for on plate 10, already published and so numbered, we have *Tantalus falcinellus*, whose corresponding letter-press is numbered Tab. 17; and the figure of the *Phalaropus*, though described here, is to be given in the fourth number. It is, however, a well known bird, and there can, consequently, be little danger of any mistake about it; which we apprehend is more than can be said concerning the *Tantalus*; as that would not seem to be *falcinellus*, but most probably some variety in age or sex of the *Tantalus igneus*. We have examined the very specimen depicted by Mr. S. more than once; and are rather apprehensive that its feet and beak are incorrectly delineated in the plate. It was shot on the banks of the Thames, in company with another bird, supposed to be of the same species; and at present is in Mr. Lamb's collection.

On the eleventh plate is a species of Papilio, which Mr. S. asserts to be new. It is, however, the *P. Charlotta* of that elaborate and useful work, Haworth's *Lepidoptera Britannica*, p. 32, where we find a detailed description of it, with the same circumstance as mentioned by Mr. S. of Dr. Abbot's being its discoverer in Bedfordshire. It is a beautiful insect, and perhaps will eventually prove to be a variety merely of the *P. Aglaia*.

The twelfth plate represents the extraordinary peacock feather like Vermes Mollusca, called *Amphitrite Ventilabrum*, by Linnaeus.—Perhaps no other individual in the whole circle of animated nature so completely resembles in outline and appearance, the beautiful feather of a peacock, as this *Amphitrite*.

The thirteenth plate presents us with another species of Papilio, (the *Chryseis*,) here asserted by our author in rather an elevated tone, to be first announced as British.—We venture again, however, to assure him, that this is not quite the case; a detailed account of it

having appeared in the *Lepidoptera Britannica*, published in 1803. Our remarks, however, must be understood as applying to the letter-press to tab. 13; as the plate will only make its appearance with the fourth number.

The reader will perceive from the foregoing brief account of this work, that it is not free from defects; yet we would not be understood to detract from the well earned merit of its author, when we say, that his descriptions and nomenclature are not so completely finished as the plates which accompany them; and though we think the insertion of original articles, accompanied by full and accurate descriptions, to be absolutely necessary to the respectability of a work of this kind, yet we

are tempted to look on imperfections of the latter sort with as lenient an eye as possible, more particularly when we recollect an observation made by the author in his work on *Fungi*, that "*he is ever more inclined to employ his pencil than his pen.*"

We now close our remarks on the *British Miscellany*, which we trust will eventually become a valuable acquisition to the student and the amateur in the natural history of the British isles. The plan affords ample scope for the exercise of Mr. S.'s well known abilities; and we hope that his exertions will not fail to meet with their due reward. We shall, on a future occasion, resume our account of this work.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the *Monthly Epitome*.

SIR,

ON looking over some old family papers, I discovered among them an original letter from James V. King of Scotland, to his uncle, Henry VIII. a copy of which I inclose, which, if you think sufficiently curious, you will please to insert in your interesting *Miscellany*. Yours, &c. H.

"Richt excellent, Richt hie and mychty Prince, owre dearest uncle and brother. In oure maist harthe wyfs, we recommend us unto you. Pleifs you understand that we being advertistit that certane personis upponn oure bordouris of lewd demenor, sic as in tymes bepast, wer grete occasionn of the unnaturale. besines that hes happynnit amangis us, wer baithie sterit to comit secrete robberyis and theftis, quhairfore we causit sic diligence be maid, that ane grete parte of theme wer apprehendit, and put to extreme punitionn for thair fals; and purposit harafter to mak farder triall be secrete inquisition upponn all oure bordours upponn the remanent of the saidis malefactours; and that all the occasionn of the saidis displeffis falbe alntirle extinguit. Quhairthrou

ony spark of unkyndnis mycht rylst betuix us, thairfore, dearest uncle, we have thocht gude to advertis you heirof, that ye mycht gif strait cōmand and charge to youre wardains and officiariis of your bordours, that nane of the saidis malefactours wer resset aydit nor supportit be ony of youre subiectis, like as in simillalle maner we fall nocht fail to do for our parte upponn all oure bordours gif ony of your * * * * * praying you that ye will caus the samyn * * * * * with diligence sfordir mycht it stand with your pleifr that your lres of licence wer had that your lieges mycht sell parte of thair geldingis to oure suitours for interchange of others comoditeis of oure realme, or money as thai conth aggre amangis thame selfeis, becaus thai ar of grettare quantite than ouris ar we wold be glaid thairof for seing the peax sa establist betuix us, oure realmes, and subiects, and oure myndis joynit in ane, will to the indissoluble observatiōnn thair-

* * * The asterisks denote that the MS. is damaged in those places, owing to its having been folded.

of, we think that mutuale connection and interchange shuld be had amange us of sic thingis as wer profitfittable or plesand to athir of us, but the grete hurt of ony of us, oure realmes, or comonn wele thairof, as to the proximate of oure blude and vicinite of oure cuntreis dois apertene; and at your desire we salbe redde to do siclike quhen ever it pleis you to call thairfore Richt excellent Richt hie and mychty prince, our derrest uncle and bruther, we pray God have evir in his keping. Subscrunt with our hand, and given under oure signete, at Edinburgh, the xxix day of December, and of oure regne the xxii year.
 "Yor. lovyng bruther and nephe,
 L. S. "JAMES REX."

(Superscription.)

"To the richt excellent Richt hie and mychty prince, oure derrest uncle and bruther, the King of Ingland, etc."

To the Editor of the Monthly Epitome.

SIR,

I BEG leave to present you with the following description of a Roman Tessellated Pavement, discovered, by accident, in Leadenhall-street, in December, 1803.

The device which occupies the centre of this very curious fragment of ancient mosaic, is a highly finished figure of the heathen deity Bacchus, who is represented reclining on the back of a tiger, his thyrsus erect, supported by his left hand, and a small Roman two-handled cup, or drinking vessel, pendent from his right; round his brow is a garland of vine-leaves; his mantle, falling from his right shoulder, is thrown carelessly round his waist, and his foot is guarded with a sandal, the lacing of which extends to the calf of the leg. The countenance of Bacchus is placid; his eyes well set, and all his features, as well as the beast on which he is riding, are represented with much freedom of design, as well as considerable accuracy of delineation; round the circle which contains the above mythological representation, are three borders of the same figure; the first exhibits the inflexions of a serpent, in black and white tessellæ, on a party-coloured field, com-

posed of blue, red, and grey ribbands; the second consists of indented cornucopiæ, in black and white; and the third of squares, diagonally concave. In two of the angles, which are formed by the inflexion of the outer circle in a square border, is represented the Roman drinking cup, on a large scale, and in the counter angles are delineations of a plant; these were wrought in blue, black, and red tessellæ, on a white ground: the inner square borders bear some resemblance to a bandeau of oak, composed of blue and red tessellæ, on a black ground; the outer border consists of eight lozenge figures on circles, in the centre of which is the common and well known ornament, the true loves knot.—Round the whole of this ornamented centre ran a margin of plain red tiles, of a larger size than any used within it.

The pavement does not in general exceed half an inch in thickness, and was bedded in a layer of brick-dust and lime of about an inch; beneath which was a thick stratum of loam, the precise depth whereof could not be ascertained.

The whole eastern side had been, some time before its last discovery, cut away, to make room for a sewer; but little doubt could exist of the borders having been continued round the square, two thirds of which remained perfect.

Nothing worth notice occurred in taking it up, except the fragment of an urn; which, together with a jaw-bone and some finger-bones, were found under the western angle. The surrounding red margin was traced to the extent of five feet six inches on the north-west side, but could not be followed further, on account of the difficulty and danger of breaking up the street; in opening the ground, however, on the opposite side of the way, foundations of Kentish rag-stone and Roman brick appeared at nearly the same depth, which probably were those of the building to which this pavement belonged. The room could not have been less than twenty-two feet square; but, in all probability, was considerably larger.

The drawing, colouring, and shadows, were all effected with

considerable skill and ingenuity by the use of about twenty separate tints, composed of tessellæ of different materials, the major part of them being baked earths; but the more brilliant colours of green and purple, which formed the drapery, were glass. These tessellæ were of different sizes and figures, adapted to the situations they occupied in the design. They were placed in rows either straight or curved as occasion demanded, each tessella presenting to those around it a flat side; the interstices of mortar being thus very narrow, and the bearing of the pieces against each other uniform; the work in general possessed much strength, and was very probably, when uninjured by damp, nearly as firm to the foot as solid stone. The tessellæ used in forming the ornamental borders were in general somewhat larger than those in the figures which constituted the centre, being cubes of half an inch.

The same device with that which appeared on this pavement, with some small variations, was discovered in 1711-12, on a pavement at Stunsfield, two miles north-west of Woodstock, in Oxfordshire.

The origin of painting in mosaic, as well as of the term, has been, and is still disputed; but the high degree of perfection to which it had attained, among the Romans, is evident from several specimens still remaining both in this and other countries. Such works rank among the most curious remains of that ingenious nation which have reached the present time; and the preservation of them has been the means of reviving the art, which is still practised with much success, and in a very improved stile in Italy. Among the remains of ancient mosaic, the following are most conspicuous for their beauty or historical importance:

The pavement of the Temple of Fortune, at Præneste, near Rome, representing the Journey of Alexander the Great through Egypt to the Desert of Lybia, to consult the Oracle in the Temple of Jupiter Ammon. This pavement, mentioned by Pliny as the chief ornament of that temple, was dug up in 1721, by Cardinal Barberini,

and laid down in his palace near the site of the temple.

The pavement of the church of St. Agnes, in the same city, formerly a temple of Bacchus.

The pavements of a Roman villa at Woodchester, in Gloucestershire, richly adorned with figures, after having lain unnoticed, though known, for a century and half, have been lately published, in a stile of superior elegance, by Samuel Lysons, Esq. Director of the Society of Antiquaries.

The story, as is supposed, of Actæon, is represented on a pavement at Leicester.

The pavement of a spacious apartment found near Seville, in Spain, representing the interior view of an ancient circus, with races, both horse and foot; the three sides of the amphitheatre surrounded by a double row of arches, containing the Nine Muses, and a variety of animals and allegorical figures.

The subject of the present communication was taken up through the munificence of the Directors of the Honourable East India Company; and the fragments (for it was unfortunately much injured) were deposited in their library.—

Although many Roman pavements have at different times been laid open in the metropolis, this is the first considerable fragment which has been preserved by drawing and engraving, or indeed which has not been either destroyed or covered up almost as soon as opened.

We are informed that imitations of this pavement, designed for the floors of select apartments, are now under the fair hands of some British ladies of considerable rank, and of the very first taste.

Yours, &c.

S. R.

To the Editor of the Monthly Epistome.

SIR,

I AM happy to find that the public are likely to be put in possession of the fine collection of Marbles made by Mr. Townley, during his life-time, and which are now at his house in Park-street, Westminster. Before his death, he directed that his estate should be charged, subject to the appro-

bation of his family, with an adequate sum for the erection of a Museum, to contain the whole of his fine pieces of the first artists of Greece and Rome; but if that approbation should be denied, he bequeathed them to the British Museum. To this collection it is intended there shall be the freest access, consistently with the safety of the marbles, and the general convenience. Amid the fine collections of sculpture possessed by several of the English nobility and gentry, it is to be lamented that there has nothing of this kind been established before. In France, the government has encouraged, with the most vigorous exertions, the formation of a National Museum of Sculpture; but England, whose resources are more abundant, and whose artists, generally speaking, fully as skilful, and who possess as much taste as any of the moderns, can boast of nothing which can be called a school of sculpture; for the puny collection at the Royal Academy cannot be urged against this assertion; but to counterbalance that want, we are in possession, by means of the exertions of individuals, of an immense num-

ber of the finest pieces in the world. Besides the admirable collection of Mr. Townley, we have the Earl of Arundel's collection, now at Oxford; that at Holkham, made by the late Earl of Leicester; the Earl of Egremont's, at Petworth, in Suffex; the collection made by the first Earl of Orford, at Houghton; that at Strawberry-Hill, made by the Hon. Horace Walpole; the Duke of Buccleugh's, in Privy-Gardens, made by the late Marquis of Monthermer; the Marquis of Lansdown's, at Shelburne-House, Westminster; the Earl of Pembroke's, at Wilton; Lord Palmerston's, at Broadlands, near Rumsey, in Hampshire; Mr. Mansel Talbot's, at Margam, in Glamorganshire; Lord Grantham's, at Newby, in Yorkshire, made by Mr. Weddell, and said to be inferior only to Mr. Townley's; Hon. W. Smith Barry's, at Beaumont, in Cheshire; Mr. Duncombe's, at Duncombe Park, in Yorkshire; the Earl of Carlisle's, at Castle-Howard; Mr. Blundell's, at Ince Blundell, Lancashire; Sir Richard Worsley's, in the Isle of Wight, &c. &c. I am, sir, your's, &c.

O. W.

MEMOIR of the LIFE of the late Rev. SAMUEL AYSCOUGH.

THE Rev. Samuel Ayscough, late assistant librarian of the British Museum, was a gentleman of great mental worth, and enjoyed the warmest affection of all who knew him, for his inoffensive manners, goodness of disposition, and sincerity of heart. His grandfather was William Ayscough, of Nottingham; who first brought printing into that town about 1710. His father, George Ayscough, succeeded to the printing business, and was an eminent stationer in that place more than 40 years. He lived much respected, and was allied to several of the most respectable families in the county; but his mind being rather of too speculative a turn, he wasted much of his property in unsuccessful pursuits: one of his projects was the extracting of gold from the dross of coals, which, as might easily be predicted, turned out an

unprofitable mode of obtaining that valuable metal; he afterwards commenced the farming business, and proved equally unsuccessful in that.

His son, Samuel Ayscough, the subject of this memoir, was educated in an academy at Nottingham, under Mr. Johnson, the author of a book, called "*Noctes Notinghamiæ*." He afterwards assisted his father in his business, in the experiments necessary for carrying on his projects, and on his farms, until the property, including his own and his sister's private fortune, was expended.—He then worked as a labouring miller, having the care of a mill on the estate, for the maintenance of his father and sister, but this proving alike unsuccessful, a gentleman in London, an old school-fellow, who entertained the highest respect for his industry, and

who by accident heard of his misfortunes, invited him to the metropolis about the year 1770. On his arrival he had at first no better employment than overlooking some pavours in the streets; and shortly after he was fortunate enough in being able to procure a situation in the British Museum, as an assistant in the library, under the principal librarian, at a small weekly salary. This was the first occasion when it might be said that fortune seemed to smile on him; and here he began to think that the difficulties he had encountered were drawing to a close. His abilities in this situation found opportunity of being brought into notice; his industry, his economy, his mildness of disposition, and his unassuming manners, gave effect to his talents, and were the means of attracting observation, and of procuring esteem. His salary was now augmented, and together with some advantages he derived by fitting up the libraries of private gentlemen, and with a small assistance from the friend already mentioned, he was enabled to send for his father to London; and was the means of rendering him comfortable for several years, till his death in November, 1783.

Having laboured 15 years in the library of the Museum, and having been five times disappointed in his expectations of succeeding to a permanent situation, he was at length, in 1785, appointed to be assistant librarian on the establishment. His principal ambition was now to obtain orders, and with a little difficulty his wish was gratified; he being ordained to the curacy of Normanton on Soar, in Nottinghamshire; and was afterward appointed to be assistant curate of the church of St. Giles in the Fields. His regular attendance on his clerical duties in this situation, and his excellent character, gained him the friendship of Dr. Buckner, now Bishop of Chichester, of the Rev. Dr. Willis, and of several other persons equally eminent and respectable.

In 1790, having a short time before been elected a fellow of the society of Antiquaries, he was appointed to preach the Fairchild lecture on Whitfun Tuesday, in

Shoreditch church, before the Royal Society, which he continued to do till the year 1804; when he completed a series of fifteen sermons, which it is likely may soon appear in such a form as will give his numerous friends an opportunity of paying a tribute of respect to the memory of so worthy a man.

Mr. Ayscough has been called one of the pioneers of learning; his literary labours, though not capable of being ranked as splendid productions, were nevertheless of that sort which may be denominated of the greatest utility, and bear the marks of patience and assiduity, seldom to be met with, when united to extensive knowledge. His laborious exertions in the great and valuable library of the British Museum, his zeal and indefatigable attention in every thing that related to it, will long be remembered by every gentleman who is at all acquainted with that excellent establishment.

Having acquired a superficial degree of knowledge of several languages, which, with the technical knowledge of old books and authors, and particularly his skill in decyphering difficult writing, amply answered his purpose in the formation of catalogues, &c. He assisted in the adjustment and regulation of the records in the Tower; and from his unremitting industry, was patronised and beloved by men of the first talents and learning. In the British Museum, his situation and salary was considerably improved; and the present Lord Chancellor, about 15 months ago, presented him with the living of Cudham, in Kent. By this increase of his income, and some legacies from his relations, he became considerably more easy in his circumstances than he had formerly been.

In the conclusion of the Fairchild lectures, after taking an affectionate leave of the audience, he thus mentioned himself:—"The Lord Chancellor having honoured me with a presentation sufficient to make the evening of life comfortable; and increasing years demanding more relaxation from the laborious scenes of life than I have accustomed myself to; to him, as the agent made use of by Provi-

dence to confer this blessing upon me, I must, as becomes me, make the most grateful acknowledgments. To Providence, the mover, most humbly on my knees I express my most unfeigned acknowledgments of gratitude and love; a Providence, in which I ever confided through all the chequered scenes of life. Under the greatest distress he hath always attended to lend me a willing aid. My nurse in infancy—my protector in childhood—my guide in manhood—my friend in the evening of life; and in whom I put full confidence that he will not forsake me in the hour of death, or in the day of judgment."

Mr. Ayscough died at his apartments in the British Museum, on October 30, 1804, at the age of 59, having been attacked by a dropy in the chest.

The reader will have already perceived that the character of this amiable man united in it all the virtues of the human heart. It would be difficult to determine whether the humility or generosity of his nature had the pre-eminence; whether his assiduity in benefiting his fellow creatures outstripped his desire of concealing it.

Mr. Ayscough published, in 1783, a small political pamphlet, in octavo, under the title of "Remarks on the Letters of an American Farmer; or a Detection of the Errors of Mr. J. Hector St. John; pointing out the pernicious Tendency of those Letters to Great-Britain."

A catalogue of the manuscripts in the British Museum, hitherto undescribed, two volumes, quarto, 1782.

His other labours it would be endless to detail. Among the principal of them are, a considerable portion of the "Liberum Im-
prefforum qui in Museo Britannico

adservantur Catalogus, 1787;" 2 vols. folio; of which about two-thirds were compiled by Dr. Maty and Mr. Harper, the remainder by Mr. Ayscough. In the new catalogue, lately made, his personal assistance consisted principally in altering the positions of the books in the library, which, under Mr. Harper's direction, were reduced to classes; and the principal entries in his hand-writing are those which relate to the rich collection of pamphlets presented by his present Majesty, in 1762.

Mr. Ayscough was remarkably expert in the making of indexes, and in that sort of literary labour he had great experience. He has been heard to say that he had received, at different times, for indexes, as much as 1300*l*. Among his principal productions of this class may be enumerated a verbal index to Shakespeare, for which he was paid 200 guineas; an index to Brydges' Northamptonshire; to Manning's History of Surrey; to 36 volumes of the Gentleman's Magazine; to Dr. Maty's Review; to the Monthly Review, 1749 to 1784, in two vols. octavo, 1786; to 20 volumes of the British Critic; to 11 volumes of Dodley's Annual Register; and to two of the lately published volumes of National Records.

Mr. Ayscough has left behind him, ready for the press, a Catalogue of Ancient Charters, amounting to about 16,000, now preserved in the British Museum; it is stated to be very complete, with a double index, and is in three large volumes. It is hoped that the Record Committee of the House of Commons will, in a short time, take the necessary steps for publishing this valuable catalogue, in the contents of which there can scarcely be a town in England but must be considerably interested.

ADVERSARIA :

Bibliographical, Philosophical, Literary, and Miscellaneous.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—The Managers of the Royal Institution have adopted the following propositions, and formally notified the same to the Proprietors and Subscribers.

1. That the laboratory shall be open for the analysis of such substances as the managers, or the professor of chemistry shall deem of scientific or public importance.

2. That in case any person shall desire to have an analysis of any one or other mineral substance, within the British dominions, which shall not be deemed of scientific or public importance, the same shall be made at their expence; the sum to be fixed by the managers, and not to exceed 10l. for any one analysis.

3. That a book be kept for the entry of all substances sent to be analysed; which shall be analysed in the order in which they are entered; except in such instances as the managers shall conceive there is some public or other circumstance in favour of an analysis being immediately made.

4. That a register shall be kept of every analysis made in the laboratory in a book, which may be inspected by order of the managers.

NAVAL AND MILITARY JURISPRUDENCE.—Mr. M'Arthur, officiating judge advocate at various courts-martial, and author of *Financial and Political Facts of the Eighteenth and present Century*, has announced the appearance, in a few days, of a work, in two volumes, octavo, entitled, "Principles and Practice of Naval and Military Courts Martial, with an Appendix, illustrative of the Subject; the Opinions of Counsel and Judge Advocate General on remarkable Cases in both Services for the last 50 years; and to which is added a Chronological List of Trials by Naval Courts Martial, since the year 1750; exhibiting a Scale of Military Crimes and Punishments, extracted from the Admiralty Records." We understand that the plan of the present work is entirely changed from that of the original Treatise on Naval Courts Martial, (now six years out of print) and which has been often quoted as a book of authority and reference in courts of law.*—The author has not only traced the institution of naval and mili-

tary laws to their origin and first principles, but he has also illustrated all doubtful cases by the received practice and usage in the naval and military services, as well as by the common and Statute law of England, and the practice of civil and criminal courts of judicature. He has given the forms preparatory to trial, and enlarged considerably on the rules of evidence, and the proceedings of courts martial to judgment and execution. He has been several years employed, in sedulously arranging, from a mass of materials in his possession, the two systems of naval and military jurisprudence comprised in the work; and the parallel superstructures are exhibited, in order that their analogy and discordance, the proportions of the one to the other, and their comparative merits and defects, may be compared and ascertained; rendering the whole, at the present crisis, a *desideratum* for the learned, as well as naval and military professions.

AIR-PUMP.—A mathematical instrument-maker has made some improvements in the construction of the air-pump, which simplifies its mechanism, and increases its power of exhausting. Glass cylinders are used instead of brass ones, and the pistons are of tin, so well fitted as to be air tight, without the intervention of leather; by which means the friction and labour in working are considerably reduced: the valves which open by the mechanical power of the piston, instead of the expansion of the air, are placed at the top of the cylinders; and the tube, which in ordinary air-pumps leads from the cylinders to the receiver, is in consequence rendered unnecessary.

ANTIQUITIES.—A Dissertation on the Sarcophagus, brought from Alexandria, and now in the British Museum, from the pen of Dr. Clarke, of Jesus College, Cambridge, is in the press.

BOTANY.—A Translation of Willdenow's Principles of Botany and Vegetable Physiology is in the press at Edinburgh, and will shortly appear.

COMMERCE.—Mr. Parnell has in the press, the fourth edition, X

* First noticed in June, 1792, in the cause tried before Lord Loughborough, Common-Pleas; Serjeant Grant v. Sir Charles Gould, then Judge Advocate General.

considerably enlarged, of "Principles of Currency and Commercial Exchange."

DRAMA.—The Rev. T. Maurice, author of the *Modern History of Hindostan*, &c. proposes to publish, by subscription, a Tragedy, formed on the Greek model, to be entitled *The Fall of the Mogul*; in which an effort will be made to restore to that species of dramatic composition, the dignity of style, sentiment, and character, in which it has of late years been deficient. Mr. Maurice has just published a short account of this tragedy, in which he gives a specimen of the style, &c. from the first act. This specimen exhibits some of the most nervous, bold, and poetic language that we remember to have read; and we anxiously wait to congratulate the public on the appearance of such an inestimable piece of composition as this specimen leads us to expect.

EDUCATION.—Mons. A. de Prunes has circulated proposals for publishing, by subscription, a work, to be entitled *Nouveaux Entretiens, sur la Physique, ou Philosophie Naturelle*. This work is more particularly designed for the instruction of youth; and its object is to familiarize them with the French language, by exciting their curiosity; and at the same time leading them to the true principles of sound morals.

Monsieur L'Abbe Carron, the younger, proposes to publish, by subscription, a work on education, under the title of *L'Ami des Meres, ou Lettres sur L'Education*.

GEOGRAPHY.—The scientific geographer will be glad to learn that Mr. Arrowsmith has recently published a beautiful Map of the principal triangles of the Geodetical Operations of Portugal; published by order of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal, in 1803. These important operations have been interrupted in Portugal by the war and other causes; but it is to be hoped they will be renewed, and carried on to completion.

The second part of the Rev. E. Patteson's General and Classical Atlas, with blank duplicates, and appropriate letter-press, is in a state of considerable forwardness.

HISTORY.—A new edition of Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War, by Dr. Smith, with the Life of the Translator prefixed, is nearly ready for publication. The first edition of this work was published by Dr. S. in 1753.

Messrs. Rivingtons will publish in a few days, their Continuation of Dodsley's Annual Register for the year 1793; and the volumes for 1794 and 1795, are in a state of considerable forwardness. The two first volumes of a new series of that work, commencing with the present century, will make their appearance in the course of the present year.

Mr. Adolphus, well known by his various historical productions, intends to publish, in the course of the spring, the Political State of the British Empire; containing a general view of the possessions of the crown, the laws, commerce, revenues, offices, and other establishments, military and civil.

The History of the House of Austria, by the Rev. W. Cox, well known by several eminent literary works, will shortly make its appearance.

M. Lavoisne proposes shortly to publish a new Genealogical, Historical, and Chronological Atlas; or a complete Guide to ancient and modern History; to be completed in 36 maps, which will be delivered to the subscribers in numbers of six maps each.

LITERATURE.—Mr. S. Eger-ton Brydges has recently published the first number of a periodical publication, which he proposes to continue occasionally, under the title of *Censura Literaria*. This work is intended principally as an imitation of the plan of Oldys' British Librarian, combined with those of Sir Thomas Pope Blount, in his *Censura Authorum Celebriorum*, 1690; and of the late Lord Orford, in his *Miscellaneous Antiquities*, and combines some of the advantages of all those works. The editor proposes to give titles and characters of English works of all ages, and of their authors, whether distinguished for their scarcity or their merit; interspersed with original disquisitions and literary biography.

A gentleman, of the name of

Bennet, has recently discovered, amongst his family papers, a large and interesting collection, which includes the correspondence of Charles I. with Prince Rupert, and the principal characters of that age; especially during the time that the prince commanded the army in the contest between the king and the parliament. These papers Mr. Bennet considers of sufficient importance to the illustration of the history of that eventful period, that he intends shortly to publish them.

Dr. Charles Hall has in the press an octavo volume on the Effects of Civilization in the European States.

Mr. Thirlwall intends to publish, in two volumes octavo, the Moral and Religious Works of the venerable Sir Matthew Hale; in which he will make some additions to his life.

The Rev. W. D. Tatterfall is proceeding in his valuable work, entitled Improved Psalmody. He will shortly publish his seventh edition of Meyrick's Version, with many important additions, on a large type, for the use of elderly persons.

MANUFACTURES.—An entirely new branch of manufacture has been introduced into Scotland. In the neighbourhood of Glasgow, a work has just commenced for the manufacture of iron-wire from the raw material; an article much wanted in that country.

MECHANICS, &c.—A new edition of Ferguson's Lectures on Mechanics, Hydrostatics, &c. in two volumes octavo, and a volume of plates in quarto, with a life of the author, written by himself, and illustrated with notes, and an appendix adapted to the present state of the arts and sciences, will shortly be published by Mr. D. Brewster.

MEDICINE.—The juice of the Ayapana or Willdenow Plant, which grows in Brazil, has lately been found to be an antidote to poisons. The pain and inflammation arising from the bites of serpents, the Scolopendra, poisonous Caterpillars, &c. are, in recent cases, removed by it in a few minutes. Count Dos Aros, governor of Para, assisted by M. Sie-

ber, an intelligent German naturalist, is now employed on an extensive course of experiments, for the purpose of ascertaining the extent of its medicinal properties.

Dr. Hooper, of the Mary-le-bonne Infirmary, well known by his various medical works, has undertaken a complete Series of Plates, illustrative of the Anatomy of the Human Body; selected and engraved from the most approved works, or from original and accurate drawings. This work, when published, may be considered as a complete anatomical atlas.

Mr. Young will publish, early in the spring, a Treatise on Cancer. It will contain, besides critical and comparative observations on this disease, an analytical inquiry into the nature and action of Schirrus, for the purpose of establishing a regular mode of curing that disease in its various stages, by means of natural separation.

MUSIC.—Mr. Horley, organist of the Asylum Chapel, has issued proposals for publishing, by subscription, a Collection of Glees, Madrigals, Rondos, &c. for three, four, five, and six voices. Mr. H. intends that this publication shall be ready for delivery early in May.

The Italian Monk, an Opera, by the late Dr. Arnold, having been out of print, since his decease, is just republished by Bland and Weller, and is now ready for delivery.

False and True, another celebrated Opera, of the above author, will also be republished at the same time. The favourite songs in both these operas may be had separately.

NATURAL HISTORY.—E. Budge, Esq. F. R. and L. S. S. will publish, in a few days, the first Fasciculus, in folio, "Plantarum Guianæ rariorum Icones et descriptiones hæcenus ineditæ." It will be recollected that a superb collection of natural history, consigned by order of the French government, from Cayenne, to the National Museum at Paris, was captured on its passage by two British privateers, in Sept. 1803; and the plants, from which the figures in the present work are taken, formed a part of that col-

lection, and will comprise upwards of 100 new plants: the remaining Fasciculi are preparing for the press, and a limited number of copies will be published with all the expedition of which the nature of the work will admit.

POLITICS.—The author of the *Letters from Cambridge*, intends to publish, by subscription, "*Discours sur le Couronnement de Bonaparte*," which he proposes sending to the press as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers are obtained.

SURVEYING.—Mr. Stephenson, of Horncastle, land-surveyor, has a work in the press, elucidating the System now pursued by Surveyors in old and new Inclosures, and by Commissioners and Surveyors in new Inclosures.

TOPOGRAPHY.—The first volume of the *History of Brecknockshire*, by Mr. Jones, is in the press, and will shortly be published.

The Rev. Mr. Graves has in the press a *History of Cleveland*, in Yorkshire, which will be embellished with several engravings.

The *History of the City of Dublin*, by John Warburton, Esq., may be expected shortly to make its appearance.

The first volume of Mr. Lyons' *General Survey of Great-Britain*, containing the history and description of the counties of Bedford, Berks, and Bucks, will speedily be published. Mr. Byrne will, at the same time, publish a *Series of Engravings of the most interesting and picturesque Objects in the several counties of Great-Britain*, intended to accompany the former work. Mr. Byrne's publication will be entitled *Britannia Depicta*.

TRAVELS.—A work, from the pen of Captain Beaver, under the title of *African Memoranda*, relative to an attempt to establish a British settlement on the Island of Bulama, on the Western coast of Africa, in the year 1792, will shortly appear; it will also contain some observations on the facility of colonizing that part of Africa, with a view to cultivation, and the introduction of letters and religion to its inhabitants; but more particularly as a gradual means of abolishing African slavery.

Dr. Griffith, who it is supposed has traversed a larger space of the habitable world than any modern traveller, will very soon publish a quarto volume of *Observations made in his journey through Asia Minor, Arabia, &c.*

FOREIGN LITERARY NEWS.

FRANCE.—The class of languages and French literature, in the National Institute, held a public sitting, for the reception of M. Bureau de la Malle. It also decreed the prize for the eulogium of Boileau, twice delivered before the meeting, to M. Oger.

A translation of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, into French, by the Abbe De Lille, has just been published at Paris.

A translation of Blair's *Lectures on Rhetoric*, and the *Belles Lettres*, into the Italian language, has recently been published at Parma, by Francisco Soave.

Delalande has presented his *Connoissance du tems de l'an 15*, to Bonaparte: it will be published by the bureau of longitude. This work, which appears annually, contains this year a valuable collection of memoirs, observations, and tables, by Messrs. Laplace, Delambre, Messier, Vidal, Flaugergues, Burckhardt, Olbers, Thulis, Duc-la-Chapelle, Conti, Guerin, Mougin, Chompré; the life of the Astronomer Bernier; and the history of astronomy for 1803, by Delalande; to serve as a continuation to his *Bibliographie Astronomique*, ending in 1802.

The remains of Fencelon, which were supposed to have been disturbed and plundered, in the metropolis of Cambay, during the storms of the revolution, have been discovered unmolested in the vault, which had escaped demolition with the rest. It is said that a subscription has been entered into for the purpose of erecting a monument worthy of the memory of the author of *Telemachus*.

M. La Doucette, prefect of the Hautes Alpes, begun last winter to make excavations at Labatie-Mont-Salem, where there are many fragments of ancient buildings. These researches have furnished a proof, that this spot was the true site of

Mons Seleucus, a Roman town in the country of the Voconces, spoken of in the Jerusalem Itinerary. There have been a great number of houses discovered, two of which are large; many mosaic pavements, baths, stone-pillars, some small statues in marble, alabaster, and bronze; some hundreds of medals, inscriptions, and vases, besides tools and utensils of almost every description.

The excavations which are continued on Mount Auxois, in the arrondissement of Sémur, have not been less successful. A silver ewer, full of medals, a golden cup, and pieces of the same metal, have already been obtained. The former of those were of Theodosius, the latter of Theodobert. The metallic treasures rescued from the earth, in the space of ten days, have been valued at 12,000 francs.

An ancient monument has also been found at Mâlain; a village formerly the capital of the Infubrie; it is a votive tablet; and the inscription which it bears, is a vow to the god Mars, by Cælius Patritus, for the preservation of his son Patritianus.

M. Vandoorlaer, of Alterè, on the canal of Bruges, four leagues from Ghent, has found a fine medal of Vespasian, in high perfection, in a field not far from his house.

M. Denon, director general of the museums, has acquired a fine head, in bronze, of the Emperor Vespasian, for the Museum Napoleon.

The Athenæum of Thoulouse, has changed its name for that of the Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Belles Lettres.

ITALY.—The celebrated Bodoni has undertaken an edition of Homer, in four volumes, large folio, without notes. His edition of the Italian Classics being accounted more correct than any other productions from his pen, it has been recommended to him to print an edition of the works of Ariosto; but the expence attending such an undertaking makes him afraid of commencing it.

The learned Zaega continues to employ himself on his catalogue of all the Coptic Manuscripts in the library of Cardinal Borgia. He

has long been engaged in researches, with regard to the topography of ancient Rome, and it is supposed that he will throw great light on the subject.

The Literary Society of Pisa has undertaken to publish a Collection of the Italian Poets, in duodecimo. This collection will comprise the works of Dante, Petrarca, Ariosto, Tasso, Boccaccio, Guarini, Davanzati, Tassoni, Ricciardetto, Eneide del Caro, Chiabresca, and others.

The booksellers, Pirota and Maspero, of Milan, are publishing a complete edition of the works of Count Alfieri, in eight volumes, duodecimo; the fifth of which has already appeared. These five volumes contain nineteen tragedies, and the letters of the author to Césarotti and Calfabigi, with their answers; they also contain the observations of the Count on his own works.

The Venetian bookseller Curti is publishing a Collection of the Works of Count C. Gozzi, among which are several pieces not before printed.

GERMANY.—The new college of Literary Censure, at Vienna, is charged with the revision of all books, the importation of which took place under the reign of Joseph II. from 1780 to 1790. It is composed of a president and four assistants, three of which are ecclesiastics. The list of works prohibited by this college will only be made known to the booksellers in writing; and a great number of literary productions, in various languages, have already been prohibited.

The privy counsellor, Von Klein, at Mannheim, for the purpose of continuing his biography of illustrious Germans, has offered a prize of thirty ducats for the best Life of Luther, which is to be adjudged by the Electoral Society at Mannheim, to whom the prize essays must be sent before the end of November, 1805.

Professor Levezou has undertaken a description, accompanied with commentaries, of the marbles and antique bronzes which compose the royal collections of Prussia. He has commenced his labours with a dissertation on the statues, usual.

ly denominated the family of Lycomedes, which he, however, has robbed of their title, by rectifying the false ideas which had gone abroad on the subject.

SWEDEN.—The number of printing-offices established in Sweden, amounts to thirty-four. Of these, thirteen are at Stockholm, two at Gottenburgh, two at Lund, and one in each of nineteen other towns.

The number of Journals and Gazettes in Sweden is twenty-nine, of which five appear at Stockholm, four at Gottenburgh, two each at Upsal, Calmar, and Linköping, and one in each of fourteen other towns.

M. Hallenberg, keeper of the medals of the King of Sweden, proposes to arrange, and afterwards publish, a Catalogue raisonné of that valuable and extensive Collection. Besides the medals of Sweden, it is rich in curious and rare pieces of other countries.—The cabinet of medals is placed in one of the pavilions of the king's palace, near the library and museum of antiquities and paintings. M. Hallenberg has distinguished himself by several literary undertakings. He is the author of a Natural History, a History of Gustavus Adolphus, many Memoirs on Antiquities, and a Commentary on the Apocalypse, which has excited a considerable sensation amongst the Swedish divines.

A translation of the *Æneid* into Swedish hexameter verses, has been undertaken by a person named Adlerbeth. It is the first work of the kind attempted in this kind of verse.

PORTUGAL.—The Prince Regent has formed the project of composing a *Bibliothèque Universelle*, which shall contain the works published in the principal nations in Europe, in their original languages; and has charged the different Portuguese diplomatique agents with the collection of materials.

RUSSIA.—Science seems to be making rapid progress in Russia, as appears, amongst other circumstances, from the various periodical works which are now carried on in that country. Thirteen Journals appear in Moscow and Petersburg, besides one at Kaluga, un-

der the title of *Urania*; the object of which is to diffuse useful knowledge.

The Moscow Journals are—1, The Patriot, (*Patriot*).—2, The European Advertiser, (*Vestnik leropy*).—3, The Moscow Mercury, (*Moskovskoi Merkurs*).—4, The Friend of Knowledge, (*Druz' Profveschtschaniya*).—5, Russian Literary News, (*Novosti Russkoi Litteratury*).—6, Pythagoras, (*Pitagor*).—7, Political Journal, (*Politicheskoi Schurnal*).—8, Journal for Amusement, (*Schurnal dlia Milych*.)

The Petersburg Journals are—1, The Petersburg Journal, (*Sankt Petersburgskoi Schurnal*).—2, Journal designed for the dissemination of knowledge amongst the people, (*Periodicheskoe Sotshcheniye o uspechakh narodnago Profveschtscheniya*).—3, Coryphæus, (*Korifey*).—4, The Northern Advertiser, (*Svernoi Vestnik*).—5, The technological Journal, published by the Academy of Sciences, and edited by the academican Sewergin.

The Petersburg Journal appears under the auspices of the minister of the interior, Count Kotshubey; and is exclusively occupied with an account of the operations of his administration. Each number is divided into two sections. The first, containing the principal ukases respecting his department; and the second, a number of select pieces on political economy, statistics, &c. translated, for the most part, from foreign languages.

The Journal designed for the dissemination of knowledge, is published under the direction of the minister for public instruction, by the academicians Oserefowsky and Fufs. It is divided into six sections; the first contains the ukases and decrees concerning the propagation of knowledge, and the organization of the schools: the second, the regulations for the general administration of schools, relating to the universities, gymnasia, district and parish schools, the nomination of masters, &c.: the third, annunciation of legacies, and donations in favour of these establishments: the fourth, extracts from the reports of the universities, &c. on the progress of their pupils: the fifth, an annual account of the application of the

sums given by the emperor to the minister of public instruction; and the sixth, memoirs on scientific objects.

The object of the technological Journal is to acquaint the people with new discoveries in the arts and trades, and to point out their application.

The Emperor of Russia has presented the University of Doerpat with the sum of 112,000 rubles, for the purpose of establishing schools in the district of that university.—The funds of the University of Charkow have also been augmented with the sum of 112,000 rubles.

Lieutenant de Print, a young officer of the corps of marine cadets, has invented, and finished a model of a drawbridge (*pont a bascule*,) which is judged to be superior to those used in England.

The Geographical Dictionary of the Russian Empire, undertaken about 1801, at Moscow, by Maximus Witsch, and other learned geographers, has been resumed, and promises a variety of curious details and descriptions; as also complete maps of every part of that vast empire.

A peasant of Satka, who can neither read nor write, and who was merely employed in carrying wood to a forge, has invented a wheel which moves eight pair of bellows; it answers the purpose of four others, with half the usual quantity of water. The inventor has constructed it himself with so much exactness, as to render the intervention of a mechanic unnecessary.

HOLLAND.—The Batavian Society of Sciences, at Haerlem, has inserted a list of the subjects preserved in its cabinet of natural history, in the first part of the second volume of its Memoirs. In the Zoological part of the list, we find 110 animals of the class Mammalia; and in the ornithological division, thirty-five species of Accipiter, 123 Picæ, 75 Anseres, 38 Gallinæ, and 121 passeræ.

AMERICA.—The Boylstonian Prize Medal of Harvard College, has been adjudged to Dr. James Mann, for his Dissertation on the Causes, Nature, and Cure of Autumnal Diseases of Infants, as

prevailing in the New England States.

ACCOUNT OF M. DIDOT.

THE following short account of M. Didot, is translated from the seventh number of the Archives Littéraires de L'Europe.

France has just lost in Ambrose Didot, who died a little time since, at the age of 84, one of those few men, who, by carrying their art to the highest pitch, reflect some lustre on their nation, and contribute to the prosperity of the state. Francis Didot, his father, an excellent printer, and possessed of some knowledge himself, brought up his son in the love of the art which he meant him to follow; and early initiated him into all the knowledge necessary to enable him to distinguish himself in it. The youth soon became inflamed with that kind of zeal which is so favourable to the acquirement of knowledge; and these advantages, united to an exquisite taste, was the eventual means of raising the French press to that degree of perfection which it has at present attained.

For a long space of time the printing of the English had excited the admiration of connoisseurs; whilst France had produced no printer who had distinguished himself from the multitude, till M. Didot produced the work of Durtus, *Sur les pierres gravées*. This was enough to cheer his countrymen with the hope that they should eventually behold a revivification of the Stephens' and the Elzevirs'. Encouraged with merited praise, M. Didot redoubled his care, and new perfections were found in every succeeding production; as we might instance, were it necessary, in his *Traité des Delits et des Peines*, *L'Art de verifier les dates*, *Isocratis opera*, &c. These works, though printed with ancient types, present us, independantly of the beauty of the printing and paper, with a regularity of font, which we should seek for in vain in antecedent works; and an accurate correction of text, without which the most beautiful edition can possess little merit.

A new form had been given to types, by Baskerville, of London;

Ambrose Didot endeavoured to render them still more beautiful. He established a foundry in his own house, in order that he might have all its operations under his own eye. He invented a typometer, by means of which, he was able to give the types a just proportion, and a perfect correspondence amongst themselves.

Not content with having obtained types, more elegant than those of neighbouring nations, he turned his attention to the improvement of paper. His first attempt was on that sort called vellum, which was already in use in England; and in consequence of his perseverance, France now makes that kind of paper for herself. The first trials on the construction of it, were made at his own expence, in the paper manufactories at Annonay.

He afterwards constructed presses

more uniform in their effect than those hitherto in use. He looked with the eye of an observer on all the mechanical parts of his art; and by perfecting them successively, he arrived at that superiority, which every where appears in his works. His success acquired him the attention of the court, and he was charged with the printing of the books destined for the education of the Dauphin.

Ambrose Didot has left two sons, which have succeeded to his reputation and his talents. Messrs. Pierre and Firmin Didot, are known throughout Europe by their typographic chef d'œuvres; and by the new perfection which they have given their productions even after their father appeared to have attained the bounds of the career of the typographic art.

LIST OF RARE BOOKS, MSS. &c. IN THE LIBRARY OF M. DUBROWSKY, AT PETERSBURGH.

THE diffusion of useful knowledge being the primary object of the Monthly Epitome, and Literary Magazine, we present our readers with the following catalogue* of a valuable collection of manuscripts and rare books, without further preface; it is now in the possession of M. de Dubrowsky, late counsellor of legation to the Russian embassy at Paris, and was collected in that capital during the period of the revolution. It principally consists of rare works of the fifteenth, and manuscripts from the fourth to the eighteenth century, obtained from the libraries of the Abbies of Corby, Saint Germain-des-près; from those of Segnier, the archbishop of Sens, the Duke de la Vallière, &c.

M. de Dubrowsky is also in possession of a collection, perhaps unique, of many thousand letters of sovereigns, statesmen, and ce-

lebrated learned men, in their own hand-writing.

The books are classed under two heads; I. Works without either date or the place where printed.—II. Works of the fifteenth century. We begin with the former; which are,

1. Plutarchus Latine, 2 Vols. large folio.—2. Augustinus de vita beata et honestate mulierum.—3. Bernardus Abbas de honestate vitæ; printed at Cologne, by Zell, about the year 1470.—4. Tractatus de doctrina dicendi et tacendi ab Albertano Caulidico Brixienti, de ore Beate Agatæ compositus, in small folio.—5. Le Champion des dames, folio.—6. Mirabilia Roma, small quarto; about the year 1460.—7. Liber Confessionum S. Augustini, small folio; about 1470.—8. Tractatus de Judeorum et Christianorum communione et conversatione, 8vo.; printed at Strasbourg about the year 1470, by Flachen, (from the library of the Archbishop of Sens).—9. Liber Balaam et Josephat, small folio.—10. Sermones S.

* From the Journal Général de la Littérature étrangère, 1804.—Cahiers X. XI. and XII.

Chrysoſtomi.—11. Albertus Magnus de adhærendo Deo, (*from the library of the Duc de la Valière*).—12. Didascalon Magistri Hugonis, 1470.—13. Speculum humanæ Salvationis, folio; 1440.—14. Figures de l'ancien et du nouveau Testament, engraved on wood, folio; 1440.—15. Jacobi Magni Sophologium, folio; 1470, (*from the library of the Archbishop of Sens*).—16. De quatuor virtutibus cardinalibus per Henricum Arimensem, folio; Strasbourg, about the year 1472.—17. Scholastica historia, a Magistro Petro Manducatore; 1490.—18. Joh. Nyder de morali Lepra, small folio; Nuremberg, by Koburger, about 1470.—19. Tertia pars Summæ S. Thomæ Aquinatis.—20. Fortalitium fidei; 1475.

Works of the fifteenth century : 1. Æneas Sylvius de duobus amantibus; Leyden, 1443.—2. De Civitate Dei, S. Augustini, folio; Rome, 1467.—3. Bessarionis Cardinalis Sabini adversus calumniam Platonis, liber, folio; Rome, 1469, (*from the library of the Duc de la Valière*).—4. Ciceronis epistolæ; Venice, 1469, folio, by Wendeline.—5. Quintiliani institutiones oratoriæ, folio; Rome, 1470.—6. Epistolæ Beati Hieronymi, 2 vols. large folio; Mayence, 1470, by Peter Schoiffer de Gernsheim.—7. Margarita poetica, folio; Nuremberg, 1472.—8. S. Thomæ de Aquina opus quarti Scripti, large folio; Mayence, 1469, by Peter Schoiffer de Gernsheim.—9. Unum ex quatuor, seu concordia evangelistarum, edita a Zacharia Crisopolita, folio; 1473.—10. Leonardi de Utino. Sermones, folio; Cologne, 1473.—11. Joh. Boccacii de Certaldo. Tr. de mulieribus claris, folio; Ulm. Zeiner de Reutlingen, 1473.—12. Fasciculus Temporum, folio; Cologne, 1474.—13. Eusebii historia Ecclesiastica, folio; Rome, 1476.—14. Liber qui dicitur Supplementum, sive summa Magistratura, Pisanelia vulgariter appellatur, folio; Nuremberg, Ant. Koburger, 1478.—15. Traité de la nature et de la hauteur des Anges, folio; Geneva, 1478.—16. Consolatorium Timoræ Conscientiæ, Johannis Nyder, quarto; Paris, by Ulric Gering, 1478.—17. Jo-

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hannis Turrecremata expositio brevis et utilis super toto psalterio; Mayence, by Peter Schoiffer de Gernsheim, 1478.—18. Biblia Sacra Latina, folio; 1479.—19. Regimen Sanitatis Salernitanum Magistri Arnoldi de Novavilla; 1480.—20. Euclidis Elementa, folio; Venice, 1482.—21. S. Augustini Opera Multa, quarto; Venice, by Octavian Scot, 1493.—22. Auli Gellii noctium Atticarum commentarii Brixia, 1485.—23. Petri Lombardi, sententiarum libri quatuor, folio; Venice, 1486.—24. Tractatus de potestate Imperatoris ac papæ, editus per Ant. de Rossellis de Artis; Venice, 1486.—25. Speculum Exemplorum omnibus Christocolis Salubritur inspicendum ut exemplis discant disciplinam; Strasbourg, 1487.—26. Guillelmi Vorillonis opus super quatuor libros sententiarum, folio; Lugduni, 1489.—27. Petri de Alliaco opus super libros sententiarum, folio; Argentina, 1490.—28. De Laniis et Phitoniciis mulieribus, tractatus, quarto, cum. fig. Constantia, 1489.—29. Victoria contra Judæos per Petrum Brutum, folio; Venice, 1489.—30. Liber Creaturarum, specialiter de Homine et de natura, &c. Argentinæ, by Martin Flach.—31. Dialogus qui vocatur Scrutinium Scripturarum per Paulum de Sancta Maria, folio; Moguntia, 1478.—32. Quintius Curtius de rebus gestis Alexandri M. accuratissime castigatus ab Bartholomæo Merula, folio; Venetiis, 1496.—33. Polybii Libri historici, interprete Nicolao Peroto, folio; Venetiis per Bernardinum, 1498.—34. Manipulus officiorum sacerdotum secundum ordinem septem Sacramentorum; Colonia apud Henricum Quendel, octavo, 1499.—35. Sidonii Apollinaris Poema aureum ejusdemque epistolæ, folio; Mediolani, 1498.—36. Les Junettes des princes, par Johan Melchinet; Paris, by J. Treperel, 1499.—37. Julii Firmici astronomicorum libri Octo, Arati phenomena cum. fig. &c. folio; Venetiis apud Aldum, 1499.

We shall, in a future number, present our readers with the remainder of this catalogue, which generally consists of manuscripts.

Y

THE FINE ARTS.

The Editor flatters himself that this Article will be found of that Importance to the Professors and Amateurs of the Fine Arts, as to induce them to make the Monthly Epitome the principal medium for communicating to the Public, a complete Account of the various New Works in Sculpture, Painting, Engraving, &c. so that it may become a complete Repository of Intelligence in that Elegant Department.

MR. W. Wilkins, jun. has in circulation, proposals for publishing, by subscription, the Antiquities of Magna Græcia; a work intended to comprise the remains of Grecian architecture yet existing in the ancient Greek settlements of Syracuse, Agrigentum, Selinus, and Segestum, in Sicily; the three temples of the ancient city of Posidonia or Pæstum, in Calabria, together with the fragments of two temples in the Island of Malta. This work is intended to be printed in imperial folio, and on the same plan as the Antiquities of Athens, by Stuart; and those of Ionia, by the Dilettanti Society. It will consist of upwards of sixty plates, containing general and particular views of the different ruins in their present state; geometrical elevations, plans, and sections, according to accurate measurement, accompanied with as much of the ancient history as may be necessary to elucidate the subject; descriptions of the present state of the temples, &c. Respecting this work, it may be proper to mention, that M. M. Denon and Houel, who have given descriptions of the antiquities of Sicily, have treated those monuments of the arts merely as admirers of the picturesque; while the details relative to Pæstum, published by Major, from the drawings of M. Soufflet, cannot be compared in accuracy with the antiquities of Athens and Ionia. Mr. Wilkins observes, that the proportions of the temples, which form the subjects of his work, are little inferior to those of the celebrated Acropolis, of Athens, completed under the administration of Pericles; and in point of antiquity they are more interesting, as they were erected

nearly three centuries previously to his age.

Mr. Orme has, in the engraver's hands, a Portrait of the Earl of Moira, from a miniature, lately painted by Mr. Bull; and a Portrait of the Nabob of Oude, from an original large miniature painted in India.

Mr. Clint, whose excellence in mezzotinto engraving is well known, has nearly ready for publication, a Portrait of the Rev. G. Walker, of Manchester, F.R.S. and President of the Literary and Philosophical Society at that place; from an original picture by Mr. Binnington, of Nottingham; and also a Portrait of Lieut.-Col. Hanson, of the Manchester Volunteer Riflemen; from a painting by Allingham.

The plate containing the Portrait of the late Mr. Gilpin, which we announced in our last number as nearly ready for publication, has become private property.

Mr. Marshall has lately painted, for the Earl of Darlington, two Portraits of those celebrated race horses, Hap-Hazard and Muly Molo, belonging to his lordship.—The portraits are now engraving in the stroke manner, by Messrs. W. and G. Cooke, whose most zealous exertions are making towards producing the prints in the highest state of perfection. The portraits of these horses are enriched with various traits that depict the prevalent manner and usage of the turf, both before and after a race. Annexed to the prints are given an account of their pedigrees, and a correct list of their winnings. Mr. Marshall proposes to publish this pair of prints, the size of which will be 24 inches by 18, about the middle of April.

The new edition of the Artists' Repository, entirely revised, corrected, and greatly augmented, is now almost complete: it is a work which develops the principles of the polite arts for the instruction of those young persons whose genius prompts them to this useful and entertaining study. It commences with the elementary principles of the art, and details at large the rules of proportions, of treating, and of measuring the human figure: it contains also a complete compendium of colours, with the methods of preparing and applying them; a dissertation on painting in water-colours, crayons, and oils ;

the methods of engraving in stroke, chalk, metzotinto, aquatinta, and on wood; the principles and practice of architecture, sculpture, perspective, and landscapes; a dictionary of the terms of art, with their explanations: the whole containing an extensive variety of requisite information, not only for youth, but also for those whose taste and judgment are mature.—The whole includes nearly 400 plates, of which the greater part is new.

The Exhibition of Paintings at the Royal Academy will open on the 29th of April.

CORRECT LIST

OF

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN MARCH.

As the List of Books, given in the MONTHLY EPITOME, is the MOST COMPLETE OF ANY PUBLISHED, and that of Prints, Maps, Charts, and Music, the ONLY ONE OF THE KIND printed in any Periodical Publication, the Editor requests that Authors, Publishers, and Artists, will continue to transmit the Titles of their Works, post-paid; and respectfully informs them, that they shall always meet with a ready Insertion, and WITHOUT ANY EXPENCE.

ARCHITECTURE.

DESIGNS for Cottages, Cottage Farms, and Rural Buildings; including Entrance Gates and Lodges. By Joseph Gandy, Architect, R. A. Royal 4to. 2ol. 10s. boards. Harding.

Architectural Sketches for Cottages, Rural Dwellings, and Villas, in the Grecian, Gothic, and Fancy Styles, with Plans, suitable to Persons of genteel Life and moderate Fortune. Preceded by some Observations on Scenery and Character proper for Picturesque Buildings.—By R. Lugar, Architect and Land Surveyor. Elegantly Engraved on 38 Plates. Royal 4to. boards; coloured 2l. 6s.; plain 1l. 11s. 6d. Taylor.

The first of the Architectural Articles in our List of Books for the last Month, should have been thus:

The New Vitruvius Britannicus, consisting of Plans and Elevations of modern Buildings, public and private, erected in Great Britain, by the most celebrated Architects. By G. Richardson, vol. ii. part iii. Imperial folio, 1l. 1s. Taylor.

ASTRONOMY.

An Illustration of Sir Isaac Newton's Method of Reasoning, by prime and ultimate Ratios; comprehending the first Section of his Principia, and as much of the 2d and 3d Sections as is necessary to explain the Motions of the Heavenly Bodies. By the Rev. T. Newton, A. M. F. L. S. 2s. 6d.

BIOGRAPHY.

General Biography, vol. V. compiled by J. Aikin, M. D. Rev. Thos. Morgan, and Mr. Johnson. 4to. 1l. 11s. 6d. bds. Kearsley.

DIVINITY.

An Address to Lord Teignmouth, President of the British and Foreign Bible Society, occasioned by his Address to the Clergy of the Church of England, By a Country Clergyman. 1s. Rivingtons.

A Fast Sermon preached at the Abbey Church of Bath, on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1805. By the Rev. Edmund Poulter, M. A. Prebendary of Winchester. 1s.—White.

The Divine Visitation considered, in a Sermon preached on the Fast Day, Feb. 20, 1805. 1s. Longman and Co.

A Discourse on the Inspiration of the Scriptures. By the Rev. Richard King, M. A. 1s. Hatchard.

Three plain Reasons against Separating from the established Church. By Edward Pearson, B. D. Rector of Kempstone. 6d.

The Influence of Christianity on the Military and Moral Character of a Soldier. A Sermon preached before a Detachment of the Second West York Militia, at Whitburne, Durham, Nov. 25, 1804. 1s. stitched. Rivingtons.

A Collection of Hymns and Psalms, for Public and Private Worship. Selected and prepared by Drs. Kippis and Rees, the Rev. Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Morgan.—18mo 4s. 6d. bound; 12mo. 6s. bound. Longman and Co.

Sermons preached to a Country Congregation; to which are added a few Hints for Sermons. Vol. IV. By the late W. Gilpin, M. A. 7s. Cadell and Davies.

A Charge delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of Chester, at the primary Visitation, in July and August, 1804; by the Bishop of Chester. 4to. 1s. 6d.; 8vo, 1s. Rivingtons.

An Attempt to adapt Sacred History to the Capacities of Children. By A. Burgh. A. M. 1s. Rivingtons.

Discursory Considerations on St. Luke's Preface, and other Circumstances of his Gospel. 3s. 6d.

DRAMA.

The Honey-Moon, a Comedy; as performed at the Theatre-Royal, Drury-lane. By the late John Tobin, Esq. 2s. 6d.

The Lady of the Rock; a Melo-drama, as performed at the Theatre-Royal, Drury-lane. By T. Hoiccroft. 1s. 6d.

The School for Reform; a Comedy, in five Acts, as performed at the Theatre Royal, Covent-Garden. By Thomas Morton, Esq. 2s. 6d. Longman & Co.

The Honest Soldier; a Comedy, in five Acts. By the late J. H. Colis. 3s. Longman & Co.

The Natural Son; a Tragedy. By James Mafon. 3s. boards. Cadell and Davies.

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